

**Mrs. Clinton give surprise birthday party**

WASHINGTON (R) — First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was given a surprise birthday party at the White House Friday night that featured square dancing and Tex-Mex food. Clinton, who turned 54 on Friday, was in a good mood as she celebrated her birthday with a group of friends and family members. The party was held in the White House's East Wing and was attended by several of the President's close friends and family members. Clinton was seen smiling and laughing throughout the evening, which ended with a large cake and more dancing.

**Singapore Airlines plane scrapes runway**

VANCOUVER (R) — Singapore Airlines' 747-400, which was carrying 300 passengers, scraped the runway on Friday but there was no injury to anyone on board. The aircraft, which was en route from Singapore to Vancouver, experienced a problem with its landing gear as it approached the runway. The plane touched down on the runway and the landing gear collapsed, causing the aircraft to scrape the runway. The pilot managed to bring the plane to a stop safely, and all passengers were evacuated without incident. The aircraft is being towed away from the runway for inspection.

**Drunk driving arrests quadruple in S. Korea**

SEOUL (R) — South Korean police reported that the number of drunk driving arrests quadrupled in the first nine months of this year compared to the same period last year. The increase is attributed to a combination of factors, including a rise in the number of vehicles on the road and a growing awareness of the dangers of drunk driving. Police officers are conducting more frequent checks for drunk drivers, and there has been a significant increase in the number of people who are caught driving under the influence. The police are urging drivers to stay sober and safe, and are offering more education and training to help reduce the number of drunk driving incidents.

**Bomb disaster splits Italy in 2**

ROME (R) — A bomb explosion in a crowded public square in Rome on Friday split the city into two camps. The explosion, which occurred in the Piazza del Popolo, killed several people and injured many others. The attack has caused a deep divide in the city, with some people blaming the government and others blaming the opposition. The Italian government has launched a investigation into the attack, and has vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice. The city of Rome is now on high alert, and there have been several more security measures implemented to prevent further attacks.

**Amman '95**

**The New Investment Laws in Jordan will Help to Achieve Investors' Goals.**

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welcomes the participants in the Middle East & North Africa Economic Summit

# MENA conference gets a positive start

## Regional leaders affirm high spirit of cooperation; world promises to help

**By Ayman Al Safadi and P.V. Vivekanand**  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporters*

AMMAN — The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference took off to what many participants described as a positive start Sunday with leaders of the region expressing commitment to working together in building the economies of the region after decades of conflict.

Their commitment was echoed by a pledge by donor countries to help in the process of achieving the goals of the three-day conference, which His Majesty King Hussein described as an "advanced step towards the rehabilitation of the regional economies, in a spirit of cooperation, confidence and hope."

The objective of the conference, attended by over 1,400 participants from 63 countries, King Hussein said, is to "revitalize the process of development in this region, to improve the standard of living of its people, who have suffered the consequences of continuous conflict and tension throughout the past century."

"The peace which we seek must be accompanied by sincere and persistent efforts in social and economic development, so that the peoples of the region may overcome the negative effects of decades of conflict, and realise the importance of peace through tangible and positive change in their standard of living," King Hussein told the opening session which His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin described as the largest to ever convene in the region.

King Hussein said that the international community can contribute to the rehabilitation of the economies of the region at a minimum cost, adding that "each and every one of us will have a distinctive role to play in making our sub-region an active participant in the regional and world economies."

The summit stressed the role of the private sector in achieving economic growth and capitalising on the opportunities that the new peace environment has made available.

"It is the job of the regional governments to create a climate that attracts international investors while supporting their own private sector. We must make the Middle East competitive; we must tap the latent energies of our own societies while attracting the capital and expertise of foreign investors," Prince Hassan told the gathering.

Prince Hassan said that the region was not looking for "a free ride."

"We are seeking joint ventures and equity part-



His Majesty King Hussein arrives at the Palace of Culture on Sunday to open the Middle East and North Africa economic conference (Reuters photo)

# King meets Rabin and Christopher on peace and projects

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday held talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and discussed developments in the Middle East peace process.

King Hussein and Mr. Christopher reaffirmed the need for overcoming the obstacles on some of the Israeli-Arab negotiating tracks so that a just and lasting peace can be achieved.

While reviewing topics on the agenda of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference, Mr. Christopher voiced his country's keenness on enabling the conference to achieve its objective of developing the Middle East.

The King and Mr. Rabin discussed the topics in the MENA conference and the regional projects on the agenda of the meeting.

They reaffirmed the need for the conference to achieve success so that the countries of the region can benefit from the available opportunities for socio-economic development.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said meanwhile that a draft final statement for the conference had been prepared by the concerned committees.

Speaking in an interview with Jordan Television, the Crown Prince said he was very delighted to see so many countries taking part in the conference.

In reply to a question about the absence of Syria and Lebanon from the conference, the Crown Prince said the two countries can contribute to the development of the region. He said that at the Barcelona meeting grouping countries in the Mediterranean zone the two countries will hopefully take part in the discussions about this development.

What is important, he said, is that the proposals submitted to the conference would cover all formulas of cooperation among the countries in the region, which is considered by the world as a large market inhabited by 350 million people.

He expressed hope that all countries will be represented in the coming meeting when all political issues would have been solved or contained. He stressed that Jordan was seeking a comprehensive settlement encompassing all countries in the region.

Commenting on Jordanian-Saudi relations, Crown Prince Hassan said that Jordan was happy over the meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and the Saudi defence minister in New York last week.

That meeting was remarkable, especially as it was followed by Saudi Arabian participation at the Amman summit, the Crown Prince said, expressing hope that the meeting would enhance bilateral relations further and would be followed by a meeting by the two monarchs in the near future.

# King counters implicit Egyptian criticism

**By Ayman Al Safadi**  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday rejected implicit criticism from Egypt that Jordan was "rushing" in normalising ties with Israel, pointing out that the Jordan-Israel peace treaty came 17 years after Egypt made its peace with Israel.

"If we call the tendency towards peace rushing, then Egypt preceded us in this by 17 years," King Hussein said at the opening session of the Middle East and North Africa economic summit (MENA) after Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa spoke.

But if "there is any serious intention to compensate for what was missed then we are not just rushing but running towards" achieving a better life for the people and help them make up for what they had lost in the years of conflict, King Hussein said.

The King's remarks came after Mr. Musa implicitly criticised Jordan in his address to the summit for rushing towards normalisation of ties with Israel.

King Hussein said that Jordan had been in the forefront in making sacrifices for the Arab World and working for Arab cooperation and coordination.

The King recalled that in the 1967 war, Jordan put its army under the command of Egypt, which he described as the big sister whose sacrifices cannot be denied.

"We will work on the road for peace in accordance with (Continued on page 11)

# Accord struck on development bank and two regional bodies

## Bank to be based in Cairo; Amman to host REDWG general secretariat

**By P.V. Vivekanand**  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference which opened here Sunday will announce the establishment of a regional development bank as well as regional tourism and business boards, officials said.

It was also agreed that Jordan will host the secretariat of the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG), one of the several working groups of the Multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process, but it remained unclear whether the secretariat will act also a policy-making and project identifying institution.

A draft declaration, to be adopted at the conclusion of the summit on Tuesday, said the proposed bank will be established in Cairo.

According to diplomatic sources, the inclusion of Cairo as the base for the bank in the declaration, thrashed out in laborious negotiations that ended in the wee hours of Sunday, came upon the insistence of the United States (see full text of the draft declaration on page 3).

According to the sources, several countries who sent representatives to the negotiations had adopted a position that they would endorse Cairo as the base for the bank only if Jordan had no objections.

The inclusion of the provision indicated that Jordan might have said it did not have any objection, but it was not immediately known what the Kingdom had secured in return.

Two senior U.S. administration officials later told reporters in a background briefing that there was "consensus" that the bank be based in Cairo but that no agreement had been reached where to base the regional tourism and business councils.

Jordan was known to have been more interested in hosting the policy making and project identification institution related to regional economic development rather than the proposed bank itself.

According to Jordanian (Continued on page 8)

**Amman '95**

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\* Source "The Banker", July 1993.

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## Hand in hand to consolidate peace

THE FOLLOWING is an official translation of the address by His Majesty King Hussein I to the Middle East and North Africa Economic summit

I AM HAPPY to welcome you all, in the name of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and to express our pride in hosting this conference, which comes as a continuation of the work which we started in the last economic summit held in Casablanca last year. The objectives which we hope to achieve are to revitalise the process of development in this region and to improve the standard of living of its peoples, who have suffered the consequences of continuous conflict and tension throughout the past century.

This region witnessed many forms of the conflict and international rivalry that accompanied the cold war. When this war was over, and the opportunity became ripe to bring peace to the Middle East, we went to Madrid to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of international legitimacy, as embodied in resolutions 242 and 338. Our efforts were crowned with success when we signed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which we hope will be the launching pad for comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the whole region. But the peace which we seek must be accompanied by sincere and persistent efforts in social and economic development, so that the peoples of the region may overcome the negative effects of decades of conflict, and realise the importance of peace through tangible and positive change in their standards of living.

We are fully aware that regional cooperation between all countries should be based on complementarity and justice, so that the region may enjoy greater harmony, and fewer disparities in the levels of development among its countries. This harmony would only reinforce social stability and our ability to eliminate the root causes of future insecurity.

We are also fully aware that regional cooperation between the peoples of the Middle East must be in the framework of active and positive interaction with the world economy. If the countries of the region have taken advanced steps towards a partnership between Europe and the Middle East, this is due to the historic and cultural ties between our region and Europe. It does not suggest in any way that this partnership should be at the expense of our participation in, and interaction with, the world economy.

It is worthy of mention at this point that the countries of the region have already initiated their cooperation, which is based on clear foundations, in three areas: the environment, water, and the infrastructure. Concerning the environment, everybody realises that national policies for the protection of the environment are ineffective in the absence of regional coordination. The countries of the region are so closely intertwined geographically and demographically that it is impossible for any party to live in isolation from its surroundings. Concerning water, cooperation in this field is a vital necessity dictated by the nature of our region, which suffers a shortage of this basic life-supporting resource. This situation demands creative thinking in order to preserve and develop our sources of water. As for the infrastructure, all efforts must be concentrated on developing a continuous infrastructural network to achieve complementarity between the countries of the region, and foster cooperation among them in order to create a climate that attracts investment in all fields.

The international community is able to contribute to the rehabilitation of the economies of the region at minimal cost. To achieve this result, there should be a clear

and common outlook for the future which we seek for the region, in partnership and through cooperation with the international community. Each one of us will have a distinctive role to play in making our sub-region an active participant in the regional and world economies.

We in Jordan have worked diligently to liberate the economy and to create a healthy environment that attracts local and foreign investment.

We have boosted this by releasing the powers of human creativity, and assuring full freedom of expression and participation in the decision-making process. Our starting point in these reforms was our conviction that the total stability of the national economy is the fundamental condition for achieving balanced sustainable growth. We have achieved this stability by virtue of fiscal and monetary policies which aimed at controlling government expenditure, limiting the budget deficit, stabilising the exchange rate of the dinar, and preventing inflation from obstructing our economic progress.

We have also implemented a policy package which aims at promoting savings, encouraging investment and activating the private sector so it can contribute to the process of development, the creation of new opportunities for employment and raising the level of economic growth. In addition, we have worked assiduously to develop our human resources, which have been central to improving the standard of living in our society. They have contributed also to the development of other countries in the region, through the expertise and qualifications which they made available to these countries. We have sought to rectify the relationship between the public and private sectors in Jordan, to make it one of partnership and complementarity between their roles. In this relationship the public sector lays down the foundations of an investment-attractive en-

vironment, and the organisational framework that permits the private sector to invest in projects that include the infrastructure. Comprehensive reform should not be limited to high leadership. It should include those at the forefront in administration, the economy, and the law.

In the past few months, the Jordanian Parliament ratified a number of new economic laws that aim to make the investment climate in Jordan stable and full of promise and opportunities. You will be able to familiarise yourselves closely with these opportunities in the course of this conference.

We are fully aware that consolidating peace and stability is linked to the achievement of comprehensive economic and social development. We are also aware that peace and prosperity cannot prevail except in an atmosphere of justice, freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, and the supremacy of the law. Based on this firm conviction, we shall continue our diligent efforts to ingrain these concepts in our society until Jordan becomes an example of the commitment to these noble objectives.

In cooperation with our colleagues on the steering committee of the Amman summit, which held the last of its meetings yesterday evening, we have worked to prepare the Declaration of Amman, which we hope will be ratified by this conference. We hope that it will be an advanced step towards the rehabilitation of the regional economies, in a spirit of cooperation, confidence and hope.

Once again I welcome you all to Amman, and I thank all those who have contributed to the preparations for this economic conference, particularly the World Economic Forum and the steering committee of the conference.

May God help us to achieve that which brings benefit to our peoples, and may God bless you all.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday addresses the MENA summit

## Mideast opens for business

Statement by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the opening plenary session of the Middle East and North Africa economic summit on Sunday, Oct. 29, 1995

IF THERE is only one phrase that you remember in the coming days, let it be this: the Middle East is open for business.

After all the years of conflict and closure, it is truly a pleasure for me to chair the Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman, and to welcome you all to our capital. The government of Jordan and the World Economic Forum have tried to bring together government and business leaders from around the world. We are honoured to host this meeting, and have done our utmost to prepare the right environment, programme and logistics. However, I want to make it clear at the outset, that this is an international conference. Its success depends entirely on your support and participation. I would like to thank President Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin for their co-sponsorship of this summit. I would also like to thank His Majesty King Hussein II for his kind effort to launch the successful summit at Casablanca.

The Middle East and North Africa are called by us in the Arabic language the Mashreq and the Maghreb — where the sun rises in the East, and where it sets in the West. Between these two celestial poles, language, faith, culture, commerce and history have given the peoples of these areas shared perceptions of the past, and common aspirations for the future.

The presence in Amman at this summit conference of the distinguished representatives of governments, financial institutions, public corporations, and of private business persons not only demonstrates the significance of our Mashreqi and Maghrebi space to the international community; it also opens up for our peoples the possibility of joining in the global adventure of the 21st century.

As chairman, it is my duty to raise a few items for discussion. I would like to do this by asking three major questions: how did we get here, what do we hope to achieve, and how do we hope to achieve it?

Firstly, how did we get here? Five years ago, this gathering would have been unthinkable. Cast your minds back to October 1990. Regional tensions were at boiling point, for the Middle East was about to be torn apart by the Gulf war. Yet only a year later, the Madrid peace conference was convened, and we set foot together on the road to reconciliation, peace, partnership and prosperity.

The Casablanca summit, so ably hosted by Morocco, demonstrated the value of cooperation among the countries of the region. It also provided an opportunity for people from the region to get

to know one another. With the Amman summit, we intend to move on to the next level. This summit is an opportunity to start the process of reconstructing the economies of the Middle East and North Africa in the most practical way possible.

This leads me to my second question: what do we hope to achieve over the next few days? Simply stated, we hope to set in motion a dynamic process to rebuild our shattered region. We must seize the opportunity provided by peace-building, to engage in peace-building.

Let us be clear about our long-term goals. We want to give every man, woman and child in the Middle East, a stake in their common future. We want our region to be known for something other than death and destruction. We want to see the day when a product labelled "made in the Middle East" inspires confidence. We want, in short, to achieve shared prosperity through self-reliance.

This leads me to my third question, which is perhaps the hardest, and requires the greatest attention. How should we go about the monumental task of rebuilding the Middle East?

The peace process is restoring regional security, and along with developments such as the move towards democratisation, will bolster domestic stability. It is now the task of the MENA governments to generate rapid, sustainable and widely-shared economic growth. A partnership entailing joint commitments based on common interests will be central to achieving this goal. The best strategy is to harness a trilateral partnership of governments, businesses and international finance.

It is the job of the regional governments to create a climate that attracts international investors while supporting their own private sectors. We must make the Middle East competitive; we must tap the latent energies of our own societies while attracting the capital and expertise of foreign investors. It is the right of the local and foreign investor to ask for a good investment climate. We are working hard to satisfy these concerns. Jordan has just passed a legislative package that liberalises and streamlines business regulations, offers incentives to foreign investors, and encourages domestic savings and investment. The time is past when foreign investors feared for their copyrights, or the repatriation of their capital and dividends. Other countries of the region are also planning and implementing market-friendly reforms and impressive privatisation programmes.

Middle Eastern governments must create a suitable environment for regional

cooperation. We must harmonise legislative structures and policies, promote regional capital markets, create specialised economic zones and trade hubs, and adopt international quality standards. Our long-term goal must be to liberalise and dismantle all barriers in the region, whether in terms of trade, investment, labour, capital or services. For freer trade in the region will contribute both to prosperity and to peace.

It has been suggested that this process could begin with a free-trade agreement embracing a core of Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinians and Israel, which could evolve into a customs union and ultimately a common market. Other building blocks are emerging both in the Maghreb and in the Gulf. Ultimately, economic arrangements in the MENA region must involve all parties who wish to be involved. Such possibilities may lie in the future, but to quote one recent study: "The prospect of a sizeable, thriving region with open trade and a diverse skill base, could help create a new emerging market, which would bring much needed foreign capital and investment to all partners." This, ladies and gentlemen, is surely what we are seeking to achieve.

Over the next few days, we will get down to the heart of the matter. We will discuss specific joint investments and regional projects in detail. They both make, and embody, a statement about the inter-connected nature of our future.

It is important to remember that we are seeking joint ventures and equity partners; we are not looking for a free ride, but for serious investment in the future of the region.

To this end, we will also devote a good portion of the coming days to discussing trade liberalisation, industrial policy, infrastructure, resource development and financial mechanisms. We will consider ways to institutionalise peace-building and to stimulate trade and investment. We will work on arrangements for regional financial bodies to coordinate and regulate investment for development. By the end of the summit, we hope to have chartered a number of regional institutions called for in the Casablanca Declaration, including a Regional Tourism Association, a Regional Business Council and a Regional Financing Mechanism, and a regional body for policy coordination. It is only natural and healthy that different approaches are initially proposed for these institutions until a consensus is reached.

None of this can succeed without you. To our guests, we say again: welcome to Amman. Look around you. The Middle East is open for business.

## Investing in peace

The following is the speech delivered by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the opening of the Amman economic summit Sunday:

SO FAR we have invested much blood, much time and much money in a product which may have been essential to our national existence, but of little benefit for our citizens. We invested in war. Today and from here on, we are committed to invest in peace.

There are serious barriers ahead of us. We must overcome, on both sides, psychological barriers, and generations of hostility. But in the drowsy Middle East, where everything moves at a slow pace, we will hurry to make up for lost time. The world is not waiting for us, it is moving ahead. If today's economic reality remaining in place there is a huge disadvantage. All of us here today are at the starting line. We have heard the starting gun, and we are off and running.

Peace in the Middle East demands that we think differently, talk differently and act differently. From now on, all our efforts, actions, plans, all our words must concentrate on the economy and on the quality of life. We owe this to the citizens of the countries which we represent here, a new life. To struggle against illiteracy and poverty. To overcome the problem of water, a problem common to the entire Middle East. To produce, to sell, to market and to profit. No one will come here because of our winning smiles, they all want to make money.

The four main parties to the peace process, Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinians and Israel have demonstrated extraordinary maturity and cooperation towards erasing the scars of an entire century by creating three regional institutions in the last year: the regional bank, the regional business council and the regional tourism council. From the podium at Casablanca we called for their establishment and a mere one year later the governments of the region and the business community can point to their establishment as a major vehicle to intensify mutual cooperation in the area. To the representatives of private industry: Your presence here is both proof of your faith in the hidden economic potential of this region, and of your confidence that it is profitable to do business here.

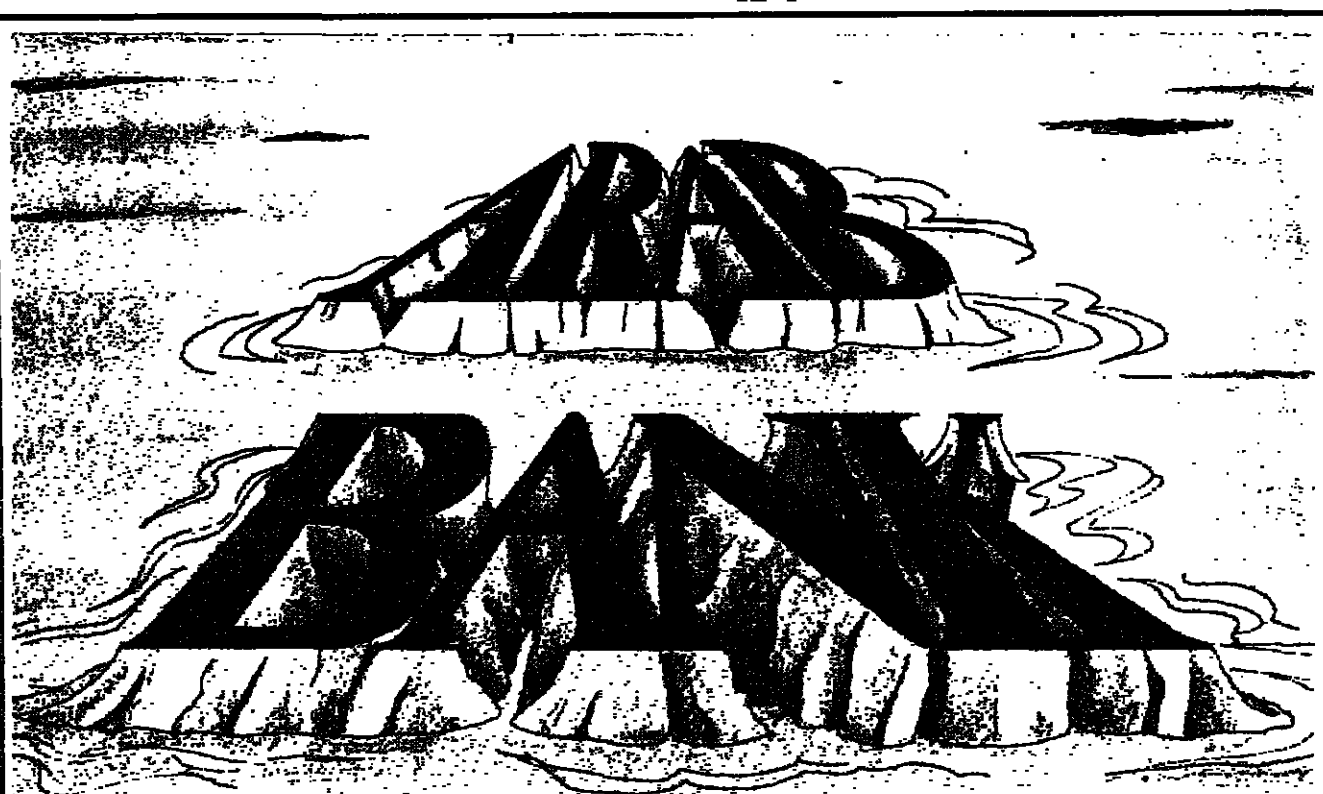
Israel brings to this summit its desire and commitment to play a constructive and cooperative role in this arena. Since Casablanca, Israel and its neighbours have already initiated dozens of development projects in such diverse fields as water transportation, agriculture, environment, energy, among other, thereby slowly but surely weaving a fabric of coexistence and cooperation, a fabric resistant to the pressures, scepticism and outright sabotage which attempt to disrupt and derail the peace process.

Regional economic development, however, entails far more than the commitment and goodwill of the parties directly involved. The resources of the region are insufficient to meet the challenges before us. Regrettably, the region has been able to raise only three per cent of the international funds earmarked for economic development.

We must remember that in the last year alone, there are an additional four million mouths to feed in our region. We must provide housing for their families, jobs for their parents, schools and clinics for their brothers and sisters. This is a very heavy burden.

Towards this end, we need the participation and cooperation of numerous parties — both within the region and beyond — from governments, local business communities, and outside partners. The international public sector will play a cardinal role through financial involvement. The private sector will enjoy unique business opportunities. Planning, engineering, construction, capital equipment, debt financing, equity financing and professional services are all coming into demand.

With increased budgets, more attention, more leadership and more entrepreneurial capabilities channelled to economic development, the region will flourish, and the Middle East may, should and will become one of the most viable and prosperous regions in the world, achieving once again its former prominence and status.



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## Investing in peace

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SUFAR we have invested much blood, much time and much money in a project that may have been essential to our national existence but of little benefit to us today and from here on we are committed to invest in peace.

There are serious barriers ahead of us. We must overcome them on both sides, political and economic. The political barriers are the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue. But in the economic arena, we must overcome the Arab boycott of Israel and the Jewish state in the region and replacing the Arab boycott of Israel with a corporate economic bloc through regional projects and development schemes with Israel at a time when Israel is still disregarding Arab and Palestinian national rights.

"This conference has been based on wrong assessments of the current political situation in the region, in which the Arab-Israeli conflict is still in place as the holy lands continue to be occupied," said a statement by a provisional executive committee of the Jordanian National Conference, a coalition of opponents to normalisation. The statement said that "it is obvious that the United States and the Zionists" aim at transforming Jordan into a passage for Israeli economic expansion in the region, and are exerting strenuous efforts to make an Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian economic bloc in the new Middle East.

The statement added that the proposed Israeli joint projects for the Jordan Rift Valley and Aqaba, and the projects on roads, communications, electric energy networks and tourism are bound to increase Jordan's reliance on the Israeli economy which will subsequently harm the Kingdom's economic, political and national independence. Although it is said that it realises Jordan's need for development and investments, the executive committee demanded that such development schemes be included in the country's national programmes and not serve American-Israeli strategic plans.

"We realise our need for investment to deal with poverty, unemployment and the chronic economic crisis. But this development can only be achieved by integrating our efforts with friendly Arab countries without succumbing to the American and Zionist plans," the statement said. The Jordanian National Conference met on Sept. 29 and issued a charter calling on Jordanians to resist all measures aimed at dealing with the "Zionist enemy."

The meeting was chaired by Islamic Action Front Secretary General Ishak Farhan.

## Anti-normalisation group condemns MENA; says summit based on incorrect political assessments

By Ghalia Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Opponents of normalisation of relations with Israel condemned the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit and said that it aims at integrating the Jewish state in the region and replacing the Arab boycott of Israel with a corporate economic bloc through regional projects and development schemes with Israel at a time when Israel is still disregarding Arab and Palestinian national rights.

"This conference has been based on wrong

assessments of the current political situation in the region, in which the Arab-Israeli conflict is still in place as the holy lands continue to be occupied," said a statement by a provisional executive committee of the Jordanian National Conference, a coalition of opponents to normalisation. The statement said that "it is obvious that the United States and the Zionists" aim at transforming Jordan into a passage for Israeli economic expansion in the region, and are exerting strenuous efforts to make an Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian economic bloc in the new Middle East.

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"We realise our need for investment to deal with poverty, unemployment and the chronic economic crisis. But this development can only be achieved by integrating our efforts with friendly Arab countries without succumbing to the American and Zionist plans," the statement said. The Jordanian National Conference met on Sept. 29 and issued a charter calling on Jordanians to resist all measures aimed at dealing with the "Zionist enemy."

## CSC says job applicants list numbers 111,059

AMMAN (Petra)—The Civil Service Commission (CSC) Sunday said 111,059 job seekers are currently registered with the commission, and 34 per cent of those are residents of the Amman area.

According to the CSC, many of these job seekers have not appeared for a placement interview for jobs in government institutions, which, according to the CSC, means that they have already found jobs with the private sector. Therefore, the statement said, the CSC figures on job applicants do not reflect the actual number of unemployed.

The announcement quoted the Department of Statistics as saying that the total Jordanian work force stands at 1,036 million, nearly one quarter of the population of 4,095 million.

It added that 81.2 per cent of this force were already employed. The department based its figures on the general census conducted in December 1994.

According to the department estimates 29 per cent of the job seekers are high-school graduates and 17.2 per cent are university graduates. The department expects that nearly 50,000 will enter the labour market in 1996, and 53,000 in 1997.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### FILM

\* "La Discrete" at the French Cultural Centre at 8.00pm

#### EXHIBITIONS

\* Paintings by Salam Kanaan and ceramics by Najwa Annab and Margaret Tadros at Alia Art Gallery.  
\* Paintings by Iraqi artists Nazem Hamed at Orfali Gallery.  
\* Paintings by Iraqi artist Saleh Juma'i at Ab'ad Gallery.  
\* Paintings by Shakir Hassan Al-Said at the French Cultural Centre. Posters on Louis Pasteur's achievements in science.  
\* Selected works by the young and the established at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental.  
\* A Retrospective Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Mona Saudi at Darat Al Funun.

#### BANI HAMIDA FALL EXHIBITION

\* The Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project presents "Winds of Change" its fall exhibition at the Jerusalem Insurance Company in Shmeisani (Tel. 658696)

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<b>Investment</b>	32 Million USD	90 Million USD.	100 Million USD.	75 Million USD.
<b>Location</b>	The Dead Sea, Jordan.	Dead Sea, Jordan.	Dead Sea, Jordan.	Aqaba, Jordan.
<b>Sales</b>	South Europe and Asia / Jordan. (20 Million USD per year)	Regional and Europe (mainly exports) (30 Million USD per annum).	Exports mainly to Asia & Europe.	Regional and mainly exports 20 Million per annum.
<b>Status</b>	Under construction & expected completion in July 96.	Studies Completed & tenders to be announced beginning of '96 for Completion in 1999.	Under negotiations with Partners - First Phase by 1998.	Expected for completion in 1998
<b>Uses</b>	Chlorinated Industry.	In Refractory Bricks for steel furnaces.	Flame Retardants, Drilling Fluids, Photographic Chemicals.	Specialty Fertilizers, animal Feed.
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# Fresh Sri Lanka clashes kill over 70

COLOMBO (R) — More than 70 people were killed in fighting between Tamil rebels and advancing troops in northern Sri Lanka Sunday, the military said.

"Troops came across well fortified trenches and minefields," the military said in a communique. "Terrorists fired mortars on to the advancing troops and as a result the advance progressed slowly."

The fighting occurred in the latest push in Operation Riviresa, an offensive launched 12 days ago by three divisions of troops against Jaffna, stronghold of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The Armed Forces' Operational Headquarters said the troops resumed their advance at dawn but met stiff resistance from the rebels.

Two Roman Catholic priests from Jaffna said during a visit to Colombo that Operation Riviresa was driving civilians into the arms of the Tiger rebels.

They told reporters that civilians were suffering because of "indiscriminate shelling" by the armed forces. Four or five civilians had been killed each day since Riviresa began on Oct. 17, they said.

The Catholic Church has been accused of being

actively pro-LTTE in Jaffna but the two priests said their main concern was the safeguard of human rights and safety of civilian lives and property.

Asked about the human rights and safety of almost 120 Sinhalese shot or backed to death last week by the LTTE in five eastern villages, they said they deplored all loss of life and had told the Tigers as much.

"Just because we speak for human rights (in Jaffna), to tar us with the same brush (as the LTTE) I do not accept," said Father James Pathinathan who runs an orphanage in the north.

Father Christopher Jayakumar, president of the Jaffna Diocesan Justice, Peace and Development Commission, said the armed forces were driving people further into the Tigers' arms because the troops were shelling civilian areas.

He said 200,000 to 300,000 civilians had been displaced.

The military says it accepts there are civilian casualties but that it has tried to keep them to a minimum.

The two priests also denounced the Tigers for recruiting children to fight in the front lines.

The LTTE, fighting for a Tamil homeland in the north and east, attacked the

Sinhalese villagers and blew up two Colombo oil depots last week.

Analysts said the attacks were attempts to divert soldiers from the northern offensive, the biggest advance the army has mounted against the Tigers in 12 years of war.

The military says more than 500 rebels have been killed and 1,500 wounded so far in Operation Riviresa.

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga raised eyebrows when she left on an overseas visit 10 days ago as fires from a Tamil rebel attack lit up the Colombo sky.

But analysts said Sunday that galvanising international support has been one of her biggest successes in the war against Tamil separatists.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, defence minister and commander in chief of the armed forces, has wooed the West over to her side in fighting the LTTE, who broke a truce in April and refused invitations to view a "peace package" offering devolution to the country's Tamil minority.

"Seeking international approval has been a major focus and a big success," a Western diplomat told Reuters. "This time she really wanted to go to New York and meet all the big

leaders and put her case."

Mr. Kumaratunga had called off a visit to the non-aligned summit in Colombia but went to New York for the U.N. 50th anniversary celebrations and stayed on to address the Asia Society and attend other functions, her press secretary said. She is due to return to Colombo Monday.

She made use of the time reiterating that she was fighting a war she did not want, that a political solution was the only viable solution and that there would be conditions for any future peace talks with the Tigers, such as a complete end to hostilities and at least a symbolic laying down of arms.

In a way, she was preaching to the converted, with her People's Alliance government managing to have eroded most pro-LTTE sympathies with governments abroad.

But at home, the signals were not so clear. Newspapers daily debated whether or not she knew about the spectacular pre-dawn rebel attacks on two oil depots in Colombo when her plane took off on Oct. 20. And if she did, why did she leave?

Certainly there was confusion at the very top level of government. Mrs. Kumaratunga issued a state-

ment saying that she heard about the attacks "just prior to my departure".

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte however told parliament that she left without knowing a thing.

"She didn't leave anything set up here in terms of who was in control while she was away," the diplomat said. "At first I thought she was doing the right thing (in going to New York), but now I'm not so sure."

The confusion surprised many, as the armed forces, fresh from considerable successes in routing the LTTE in the rebel-held Jaffna and reportedly putting the Tiger leadership to flight, are massed in the north and believed to be poised for a final big push.

Mrs. Kumaratunga will likely be at home if and when the final push begins. Whether or not this is the end-game remains in doubt.

"The army thinks it's winning, making advances, and now they want to finish it off," one local human rights campaigner said. "What they have to remember is that they are facing a guerrilla army fighting a guerrilla war. (The LTTE) never intended to beat them on the battlefield."



Members of the Tanzanian ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party wait for their leader Benjamin Mkapa in Dar Es Salaam, during a final rally before the first multi-party elections in the country's history (AFP photo)

## Slow start to Tanzania's first multi-party poll

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Tanzanians voted in their first multi-party presidential and parliamentary elections Sunday after 30 years of one-party Socialist rule.

Voting got off to a slow but peaceful start in the capital Dar Es Salaam after opposition parties dropped earlier plans to stage a boycott.

The main choice facing the registered electorate of 8,950,000 people, out of the East African country's population of nearly 30 million, was between the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and Augustine Mrema's opposition NCCR-Mageuzi.

"In quite a few polling stations materials arrived late but no disturbances have been reported," one of the foreign election observers in Dar Es Salaam said.

Late-night talks took place Saturday between Western donors and Tanzanian authorities over payments to at least 150,000 election officials, diplomatic sources said.

"The officials want assurances that they will be paid by the treasury," one diplomat said.

CCM presidential candidate Benjamin Mkapa, a former journalist and diplomat aged 58, has campaigned as the safe choice representing stability and

continuity.

But Mr. Mrema, once a state security agent serving the CCM government, has rammed home a populist message promising to attack official corruption and raise Tanzania out of the bottom 10 poorest countries in the world.

Mr. Mrema's NCCR and eight smaller opposition parties decided not to boycott the poll despite what they called the "total rigging" of last week's elections in Zanzibar.

Tanzania's 17 main donors, who provided about \$15 million to help finance the elections, called Saturday for a check on the result in Zanzibar, reporting "discrepancies".

The CCM candidate for the presidency of the islands, joined in a union with mainland Tanganyika since 1964, was declared the winner last Thursday by a thin margin over his opposition adversary.

Polling in Zanzibar began without incident Sunday for the Tanzanian Union elections, foreign observers said.

"I am not happy about the Zanzibar result and I am afraid that if we are not careful the same thing will happen here," Mr. Mrema, wearing his trademark cap, told reporters after voting in the capital Sunday.

## Bangladesh's Khaleda invites opposition to talks

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has invited main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina to talks aimed at ending long-running disputes over future elections.

The invitation came in a long-awaited letter from Mrs. Khaleda delivered to Mrs. Hasina's residence Saturday night by Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, acting secretary-general of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, government and opposition leaders said.

The text of the letter was not made public, but the state-owned Dainik Bangla newspaper quoted Mrs. Khaleda as saying in the letter that "the next parliamentary election was not too far" and that she wanted to resolve the political problems now through discussions with an open mind.

"I firmly believe the current problems can be resolved through negotiations... And I sincerely invite you to talks with open mind to resolve them."

Mrs. Hasina was not available for comment, but a senior leader of her Awami League party, Suranjit Sengupta, said "the letter contained nothing specific. It's a wild letter issued with an intention to trigger more confusions".

Bangladesh Times, another state-run newspaper, quoted Mr. Sengupta as further saying that "I don't think this letter will help solve problems. It's simply an eye-wash."

## Indian ministers suggest early Kashmir polls

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — An Indian ministerial team on Kashmir has called for early legislative elections, preferably in December, in the troubled state, officials said Sunday.

The team suggested at a two-hour meeting here Saturday that the elections be held before the expiry of the current spell of federal rule in Kashmir on Jan. 17, an official spokesman said.

The group of ministers, who had been asked by the prime minister to study the possibility of holding elections in Kashmir, included External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Finance Minister Mammoohan Singh.

They "felt the situation in the state had turned for the better and conditions were conducive for the holding of elections by mid-December," the spokesman said. Saturday's meeting was also attended by intelligence officials.

Indian officials said a final decision on Kashmir elections would be taken by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has been governed directly by New Delhi since January 1990. Muslim militants fighting a bloody war since 1989 against Indian rule over Kashmir have vowed to sabotage any elections. Kashmir's pro-India Na-

tional Conference Party, which once ruled the state, has said it would take part in the proposed polls only if the Indian government grants autonomy to the northern state.

The last elections to the Kashmir legislature were held in 1987.

More than 12,000 people have been killed in the Muslim separatist drive in Kashmir. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Muslim guerrillas in the Himalayan province. Islamabad denies the charge.

India and Pakistan dispute the ownership of Kashmir and have fought two wars over it.

Meanwhile foreign guerrillas holding four Westerners hostage in Kashmir have begun turning control of the tourists over to local militants as they move the captives to a more densely populated area, Indian authorities said Sunday.

"We believe the Afghans and Pakistanis are being replaced by Kashmiris," said a senior government official who asked not to be identified.

Since the Western tourists were kidnapped in early July, the Indian government has claimed Pakistan was behind the abductions and that shadowy Al-Faran guerrillas were mostly Afghans and Pakistanis.

Islamabad has denied any involvement and denounced the kidnappings, which have also drawn criticism from Kashmiri separatist groups who say Al-Faran has hurt their five-year-old uprising against Indian rule. Police and doctors say some 20,000 people have been killed in the uprising.

Americans Donald Hutchings and John Childs and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells were captured on July 4 near the mountain resort of Pahalgam, some 50 kilometres east of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.

German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Christian Ostroe were picked up in the same area on July 8, the same day Childs escaped to safety.

On Aug. 13, Ostroe was found beheaded in a remote forest.

Authorities said the apparent decision by foreign guerrillas to turn control of the hostages over to Kashmiris could be a hopeful sign, although they cautioned there was no indication the four-month-old ordeal would end soon.

"We believe there have been fresh inductions of Kashmiris into the group holding the tourists, and the foreigners are being replaced so eventually they can claim Pakistan was not involved," one government

official said.

Female companions of the hostages left India for home last week after renewing an appeal to Al-Faran to release their menfolk. A diplomat said the women had not given up hope but wanted to be with their families after keeping a four-month vigil.

"Their mood is determined but patient," the diplomat said.

Authorities said the hostages were being held by large numbers of militants — newspapers have said as many as 100 guards — and have been shifted from very high altitudes in the southern part of the state back to the lower Pahalgam area.

The government has a good idea where they are if only because the militants and hostages have been regularly sighted by villagers and shepherds as they move within the region.

"People know where they are moving," an official said. "They are now in fairly densely populated places, in hamlets, not towns."

Indian security forces have been ordered not to try to rescue the hostages as it could endanger their lives. "We don't see any nervousness on the abductors' part," an official said. "We think they will look after them (hostages)."

## Apathy greets S. Africa's 1st all-race local elections

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa is holding its first all-race local government elections Wednesday with crime the number one issue for whites and many blacks wondering why they should vote at all.

President Nelson Mandela, faced with a raft of studies and informal surveys showing many voters planned to stay away, tried to drum up interest by making a whistlestop tour of populous black townships on Sunday.

Mr. Mandela has said the polls, being held just 18 months after the country's first all-race elections in April 1994 swept him to power, are a watershed in the transition to majority rule.

"The importance of the election is in the fact that they provide the last link in the democratisation process of the country which began with the national and provincial elections (last year)," Ronnie Mamoepa, spokesman for Mr. Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC), told Reuters.

"This is the final leg in the transformation of our country... It is now going to finally bring government to the doorstep of our people and assure the transformation of our country," Mr. Mamoepa said, adding that the ANC would be satisfied with a 50 per cent turnout but was expecting higher.

But on the eve of the elections many black voters appeared confused or apathetic about the issues and candidates. Some were incensed that the ANC had selected party stalwarts to run in rural areas where they were little known.

## Pakistan opposition storms out of parliamentary address

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Opposition lawmakers stormed out of Pakistan's legislature Sunday, staging a defiant protest during President Farooq Leghari's annual address to a joint session of parliament.

Calling the president a liar and shouting insults at Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's coalition government, opposition Pakistan Muslim League lawmakers disrupted Mr. Leghari's annual speech for the second year in a row.

Although tame by comparison to a brawl that broke out during last year's speech, Sunday's protest illustrates the deep divisions that trouble Pakistan's parliamentary system, a theme introduced in Mr. Leghari's hour-long address.

"There is little difference between the manifestoes of the government and the opposition parties," Mr. Leghari said. "The people of Pakistan have the right to expect their leaders to rise above personal animosities and unite."

Ruling lawmakers in the parliamentary chambers pounded their desks to sound approval for the call despite the glaring vacancies in more than a third of the seats.

More than 100 opposition members of parliament and senators walked out on Mr. Leghari's speech just three minutes after it began.

The protest was joined by a handful of lawmakers from the fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami and Karachi's ethnic opposition group the Mohajir Qaumi

Movement.

After the protest, Mr. Leghari continued his speech, calling for a war on corruption in government and a political solution to ethnic violence in the southern city of Karachi.

"I call upon all parties to renounce violence and together with the government try to seek a political solution," Mr. Leghari said.

Last year, the president's speech was reduced to a shouting match with opposition politicians.

## Jesse James goes to the grave

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Jesse James, the glorified outlaw of 19th-century western lore, went to his grave Saturday — for the third time in 113 years. Funeral services for the robber, murderer and train robber were held in Kearney, Missouri where a horse-drawn carriage brought his remains to Mount Olivet Cemetery. Nearly 600 people attended the service. Officials had exhumed his remains last July to conduct DNA tests to determine if James actually was shot by a member of his gang in 1882 and buried in the grave that bore his name. Stories had circulated ever since the shooting that the 34-year-old James escaped death and another person lay in his tomb. Preliminary DNA tests found last month that the exhumed remains probably were those of James. The body was moved once before from his mother's yard to Mount Olivet in 1902.

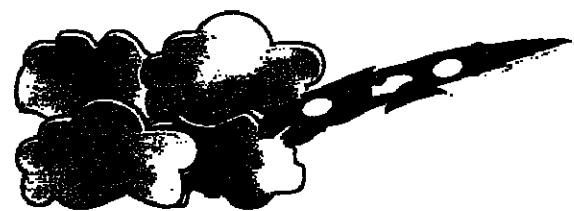
## McCartney hates having to justify his place in the Beatles

LONDON (AP) — Paul McCartney says he hates having to justify his place in the Beatles to people who regard the late John Lennon as the rock group's heart and soul. When Lennon was assassinated in New York in 1980, he became a rock and roll saint to many Beatles fans. He was viewed as the creative, avant garde songwriter while McCartney was seen as less-serious and less-important. In an interview in Saturday's Daily Express, McCartney said he was the only bachelor Beatle living in London and experimenting with new music in the early days — and the others were "very square" because they were married and living in the suburbs. "The thing I find myself doing, which is a pity really, is trying to justify myself against John — and I hate to do that," McCartney was quoted as saying. "There are certain people who think he is the Beatles. Now that is not true and John would be the first to tell you that. But you can't blame people for feeling that way because his death was a hell of a tragedy," he was quoted as saying. He said there was a big difference between Lennon and McCartney. "John'd always wanted to jump over the cliff," McCartney was quoted as saying. "He once said to me, have you ever thought of jumping? I said, '... You jump and tell me how it is.' McCartney has joined with surviving Beatles George Harrison and Ringo Starr to do a television history of the group and a six-album anthology which will include two singles Lennon made before he was killed.

## Mother punished for torturing daughter to death

BEIJING (AFP) — A Chinese court has sentenced a woman to life imprisonment for torturing her child to death, inflicting such cruel punishments over the years as sewing the girl's lips together, a report seen Wednesday said. The court in Xining in the northwestern province of Qinghai heard how Yan Zhiyun regularly beat and maltreated her daughter Su Li, who died in 1993 at the age of five. In December 1990, Yan sewed up her daughter's mouth after she discovered that the starving toddler had sought to curb her hunger by eating chicken food. Saturday's edition of the Yangtze Evening Post said, Yan again punished her daughter in March 1993 for secretly eating some pork oil by forcing spoonfuls of boiling oil into her mouth, the report said. The child's mouth was so badly burned that she was no longer able to eat anything, and she died six days later.

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WASHINGTON (AFP) — Jesse James, the notorious outlaw of 19th-century western lore, went to his grave Saturday — for the third time in 113 years. Funeral services for the robber, murderer and anti-Kearney, Missouri, were held in a horse-drawn carriage brought to his home in Mount Olivet Cemetery. Nearly 600 people attended the service. Officials had exhumed his remains last July to conduct DNA tests to determine if James actually was shot by a member of his gang in 1882 and buried in the grave that bore his name. Stories had circulated ever since the shooting that the 34-year-old James escaped death and another person lay in his tomb. Preliminary DNA tests found last month that the exhumed remains probably were those of James. The body was moved once before from his mother's yard in Mount Olivet in 1902.

# World News



Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau waves to supporters during a 'yes' rally in St. Julien, part of a campaign to convince a majority of voters to back independence in Monday's referendum (AFP photo)

## Canada prepares for crucial vote on Quebec's future

MONTREAL (R) — Canada could face the gravest threat to national unity in its history Monday when Quebec votes whether to become an independent nation. Not since Canada was founded from English and French peoples in 1867 have French-Canadian nationalists been so close to the dream of creating their own country of Quebec in North America. Up to 5 million voters will choose in a referendum whether Quebec should "become sovereign". If the answer is yes, it will set off a chain of events that could lead to the disintegration of the world's second largest country.

The final public opinion poll released before the vote showed supporters of independence within reach of a majority. A Leger Leger survey put separatist support at 46.8 per cent among decided voters, a 5-percentage-point lead. Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau has said he needs only 50 per cent plus one vote to proceed with creating a French-speaking nation. "A yes vote means sovereignty," Mr. Parizeau told a rally Saturday near Montreal.

The outcome appeared to hinge on the ten per cent or so of the electorate who have nervously sat on the fence all through the two-month campaign. The separatists' fear is that a vast majority of the undecided will not want to take the risk of independence. A 1980 Quebec referendum on sovereignty was defeated 60 to 40 per cent. Taking this fear of change into account, the Leger poll put the race as a virtual dead heat.

Both sides campaigned furiously to sway the undecided in the final hours before the vote. Mr. Parizeau tried to ease fears of the consequences if there is a vote for sovereignty, saying Saturday that only in a year — after negotiations with Canada had been attempted — could the red-and-white maple leaf flag of Canada finally be lowered in Quebec. The proposal put to voters requires that Quebec try to negotiate a new economic and political arrangement with Canada before declaring independence. But Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien has said there would be no negotiations with Quebec and a vote for sovereignty is a one-way ticket out of Canada.

## 300 die in Azerbaijan underground fire

BAKU (R) — About 300 people were killed and 140 were injured when an underground railway train caught fire in Azerbaijan's capital Baku, police said Sunday. Baku Police Chief Mageram Aliyev, announcing the toll, told ITAR-TASS news agency the figure was not yet final. Doctors were still treating people in hospital for burns and smoke-inhalation. A police spokesman later said 289 people had been killed, while hospital officials told Reuters up to 337 had died. Witnesses said panic broke out in the train when it came to a halt in a tunnel between the Ulduz and Narimanov underground stations in central Baku and

smoke began to pour into the carriages. "I heard a loud noise and the train stopped," one witness, Azer Izulayev, told the independent Azeri news agency Turan. "There was smoke and people started suffocating. They began breaking windows and there was a great panic." The official cause of the fire, shortly before 6 p.m. (1400 GMT) Saturday, was not known. But police said it was probably caused by a technical fault and suggested it may have been started by a spark from a high voltage cable. First reports Saturday said only two people had been killed but the size of the death toll became apparent as rescue work got under way.

Reuters Television correspondent Khadil Askerov said he watched rescue workers bringing out bodies from around midnight (2000 GMT). One rescue worker told him smoke had initially been so thick that it had been impossible to enter the tunnel. The train was thought to include five carriages. Initial reports said 70 passengers were evacuated safely from the burning train, which was left stranded in the tunnel. Police barred entry to the underground Sunday and sealed off a mortuary where the dead were taken. A mortuary official confirmed to Reuters that about 300 corpses had been brought in.

President Haydar Aliyev set up a special investigation commission headed by Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Abbasov which also included the ministers of security and the interior and the prosecutor general. Twenty people have died and dozens have been injured in two bomb attacks at Baku's underground system in the last 18 months. No one claimed responsibility for either attack but the authorities suspected political opponents of Mr. Aliyev. The opposition rejected such claims. The volatile Transcaucasus Republic of Azerbaijan is also involved in a bitter territorial dispute with Armenia.

## Storm kills scores, sinks 2 ferries in Philippines

BACOLOD, Philippines (R) — Scores died, some 60,000 fled their homes and two ferries sank as tropical storm Zack ravaged sugar-growing areas in a devastating sweep across the central Philippines, officials said Sunday. The storm triggered floods and landslides, knocked out telephones in eight provincial cities and downed power lines, plunging many areas in the Visayas region into darkness after it struck Saturday. Provincial officials said they feared the death toll would rise when they heard

from interior villages cut off from communication by Zack's destructive 105 kph winds. "There are still reports coming in," Governor Rafael Coscolluela of Negros Occidental province, 550 kilometres southeast of Manila, said. At least 57 people died in Negros Occidental, many of them drowned, Mr. Coscolluela said. Another 18 were missing. Thirteen people were killed in nearby Iloilo province and six died on Cebu Island, local officials said.

About 30 other people were injured. Officials said the Iloilo death toll was based on reports from only 16 of the 43 municipalities in the province which were battered by the storm. The 352.32-tonne inter-island Cebu Diamond sank off Camotes Island but 46 of its 51 crewmen were either rescued by passing foreign ships or swam ashore to safety, the Coast Guard said. Five were missing. The ferry was seeking shelter when it was sunk by heavy waves, the Coast

Guard said. A small motor launch sank off Guimaras Island but five of its eight occupants were rescued. Three others were missing, police said. Huge waves lashed the top deck of the Princess of the Orient, with 1,636 passengers and 112 crewmen aboard, as it passed within the storm's radius, but the 13,700-tonne inter-island ferry owned by Sulpicio Lines made it safely to Cebu Port.

## Bangkok still flooded but worst may be over

BANGKOK (R) — Large parts of Bangkok languished Sunday in some of the worst flooding seen in decades as police continued to be on guard to stop angry residents destroying embankments protecting other parts of the city. Government relief officials said the worst should be over as tides coming up the Chao Phraya River from the Gulf of Thailand had begun receding. Bangkok's low-lying

Thonburi district on the west bank of the Chao Phraya River was the hardest hit, with most areas submerged and many main roads impassable. Late last week, frustrated residents in Thonburi tore down flood barriers which had been holding back waters, in an effort to drain their neighbourhoods. "Most of the embankments along the main roads in Thonburi have already been torn down," an official from the Interior Ministry's

Disaster Relief Centre told Reuters. The flood waters were nearly one metre deep in some parts of Thonburi, including areas near Prime Minister Banham Silpa-archa's residence, although the premier's home remained dry, the officials said. The Grand Palace and the Sanam Luang royal crematorium ground, the historic heart of the Thai capital on the east bank of the Chao Phraya River, were also

under water Sunday as were some areas of the Chinatown area to the south of the Grand Palace. But the deluge did not prevent a steady stream of tourists, trousers rolled up, from visiting the palace and nearby Buddhist temples, witnesses said. Flood barriers in the suburbs kept most of Bangkok's central business and diplomatic districts, including the Sukumvit Road residential area, dry, residents there said.

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Mother punished for torturing daughter to death

BEIJING (AFP) — A Chinese court has sentenced a woman to life imprisonment for torturing her 10-year-old daughter to death. The court said the mother had beaten and starved her daughter for years. The girl died in 1993. The mother was sentenced to life imprisonment. The court said the mother had beaten and starved her daughter for years. The girl died in 1993. The mother was sentenced to life imprisonment.



## Jordan Times

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## MENA: Clarity of objectives?

A COPY of the draft declaration of the Amman economic summit for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) that circulated in town yesterday appears to endorse several financial and economic institutions to serve the ideals and objectives of regional economic cooperation constructed on the edifice of peace between Israel and the Arab World. MENA I, which was held in Casablanca last year, had articulated these purposes but left it up to MENA II to translate them into reality.

So far so good. What could be disturbing to note, though, is that not only inter-Arab rivalries are influencing the decision-making process of the task force of the summit; differences in perspectives among some of the major donor countries are also taking their toll on the future course of the past and future MENA summits. Somehow we get the distinct feeling that various quarters and spheres of influence are not operating exactly on the same wavelength on how best to attain the objectives that we all seem to agree on.

Accordingly, we seem to have decided to have a bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa to be based in Cairo. Its aims will be to promote development of the private sector, support regional infrastructure projects and increase economic cooperation. We need not guess why Cairo was selected to host this bank or figure out who was behind it and who was not. But we would definitely like to know how policy-making and project identification in the context of regional economic development of the MENA region would be formulated. Will they remain in the realm of REDWIG or will they be the responsibility of another institution that we do not know yet about?

Then we are going to have a Regional Business Council, again to promote cooperation and trade among the private sectors of the participating countries of the two regions.

The proposed Regional Tourism Board aims to promote tourism on the level of two regions that are different and far apart. While we do not profess to be experts on tourism, plain common sense would readily reveal that tourism in North Africa is not quite connected with tourism in the Middle East. These two areas of the Arab region are not exactly complementary to one another when it comes to tapping the resources of the tourism industry. As a matter of fact lumping the two regions together for the purpose of economic development strikes us as controversial to say the least.

Out of all the basket of fruits that is being assembled by MENA II, Amman, its host, is getting just an apple or two. As a token of appreciation to Jordan for its commitment to regional and comprehensive peace, Amman has been chosen to host REDWIG, the Regional Economic Development Working Group. Again this additional body will promote and strengthen regional economic cooperation, this time for the Middle East alone. At least there is considerable sense in trying to promote regional cooperation on the Middle Eastern scale rather than on the basis of two regions as the other institutions seem to be doing. As for the secretariat of the MENA summits, of course Rabat will be the host capital since Morocco was the first country to host the MENA series.

The many signals that emanate from present and past experiences gained from MENAs I and II give an added credence to the feeling that there has been considerable wheeling and dealing behind closed doors on the future course of regional economic development. Unless and until intentions of the parties are better coordinated, there is every reason to believe that where we are heading may not be exactly where we set out to go in the first place.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday hailed the results of surveys conducted in Palestine and Jordan that found a majority of the people in the two banks of Jordan support some sort of union between them. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the results of the poll reflect the fact that the majority of people feel they hail from one united family despite the occupation that lasted 27 years and the constraints imposed on the Arab people of Palestine and on Palestinian refugees. The writer said that the Israeli obstacles in the way of re-establishing the strongest possible ties between the two sides would not succeed in keeping the people of the two banks separated nor can it succeed in keeping the Palestinians under the tutelage of Israel politically or economically. The economic difficulties facing the Palestinians are politically motivated by the Jewish state but these are bound to be removed soon once the Palestinians achieve their independence and exercise their sovereignty and embark on close cooperation with their Jordanian brothers.

COMMENTING ON the convening of the Amman Economic Summit, Saleh Qallab, a columnist with Al Dustour daily said that while Jordan felt proud over the occasion it was sad that countries like Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Iran were not represented at the meeting. The writer said that the participation of these countries, being Middle Eastern states, would have given further impetus to the conference since its decisions and recommendations are bound to affect the whole region. He said that this was an international gathering aimed primarily to launch projects that would benefit the whole region. Its convening in an Arab country marks the world community's realisation of the Arab region and its deep interest in contributing to its development, he added. Jordan misses these countries which have a great economic potential that can be utilised towards achieving progress in this region. Comprehensive peace and development would not be complete without the involvement of all the region's states.

## Human Rights File

## Protection of human rights presupposes development

By Dr. Waleed M. Sa'di

THERE IS a wide consensus that the ongoing Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Economic Summit was inspired by the bilateral peace treaties struck between Israel on the one hand and Jordan and the Palestinians on the other. The timing of the meeting was deliberately chosen on the premise that by October of this year, both Syria and Lebanon would have been fully integrated into the peace process. The absence of Damascus and Beirut, not to mention Baghdad, would obviously put a damper on the hopes of the conferees for the time being. Yet these missing elements are not supposed to wreak havoc since they are not supposed to remain lacking for much too long. As a matter of fact, the momentum of economic development across the board in the region may end up speeding up the process of incorporating the absent partners rather than the other way around.

Still, even after the resolution of the issue of the missing parts in the jigsaw puzzle of comprehensive peace, MENA should not and cannot remain for long a one-legged exercise based only on peace between Israel and the Arab World. The Arab-Israeli conflict may have succeeded in dwarfing other regional conflicts but has not succeeded in eliminating them. Inter-Arab disputes, lack of pluralistic democracy and disrespect for the most basic elements of human rights are but some of the major hurdles that may still stifle the objectives and aspirations of MENA unless the process of healing them begins. This is where the conferees may take time to address these other dimensions by referring to them as serious impediments to full regional economic development and integration.

Take for example inter-Arab problems. There is no doubt that most Arab capitals carry on the business of bilateral and multi-lateral relations with one another on the premise that there is and will always be a conflict of interest

between them. Luckily, this sense of conflict of interest could be found more on the governmental rather than on the public level. Arab peoples everywhere still remember that there were no borders between them for centuries and continue to aspire and yearn for the return to that historic normalcy. It is no secret that for the most part Arab peoples do not have much of a say about the shape of their future till this late hour. There is a general feeling that if things are left to the peoples of the area, there would be no frontiers between them and the era of conflict of interest would be gone for ever.

Jordan is one of the very few Arab countries which have started the democratisation process and admits that it still has a long way to go to attain the full objectives of democracy. We have discovered by sheer trial and error that democracy cannot succeed by a mere political decision from the top. Above all, democracy, we have found out, is a call for conditions that could sustain the process. Even in a fairly developed country like Jordan, blessed with internationally-recognised enlightened leadership, the ebbs and flows in the process were easily noticeable in the past years. Over and above the obvious hurdles such as lack of a sufficient tradition in functional democracy, the ever widening gap between the rich and poor in our midst, poverty and unemployment are serious obstacles to the springing up of deep roots for democracy. That's where we have confidence that regional economic progress can lend valuable support to democracy in our own country as well as to the other countries of the area where democracy has yet to be born by at least erasing some of the economic problems standing in the way of effective democracy.

Meanwhile, the participants at the Amman conference need to be respectfully reminded that there is an organic link between genuine and lasting economic development

whether domestic or regional, and bona fide democracy and respect for human rights. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has recognised and endorsed this relationship. Other international fora have equally subscribed to this proposition, including the Beijing Women Conference few weeks ago, the 1994 Cairo world conference on population and last but not least the 1993 Vienna Conference on human rights.

As a columnist on human rights, the least that I can do at the occasion of the holding of the three-day MENA summit in Amman is to draw the attention of all the good people who are attending this meeting to the urgent need of highlighting the link between multi-dimensional development in the Middle East and North Africa and the cause of democracy and human rights. I am not suggesting here that economic or financial support to the countries of the two regions must be made contingent on respect for basic human rights and the steady progress in the development of democracy on the premise that economic progress does in itself accelerate the democratisation process. Rather, I am hoping that the opportunity offered by MENA should be seized to impress upon the governments of the two regions the urgent need for the introduction of deep-rooted democracy and respect for human rights as a high priority consideration that would determine the extent of the continued support of the haves in the world to the many have-nots in the Middle East and North Africa. Otherwise, some of the regimes in these two regions of the world would continue to labour under the false impression that peace with Israel is all that it takes to win the favour of the donor countries, even at the expense of human rights and democracy. Peace with Israel must never be viewed as a licence to perpetuate old ways of governing and this much must be made clear to the concerned states.

## Dole's damaging bill

By Dr. James Zogby

removing the timeline and the sanctions, they also gave the president the authority to delay implementation of the bill if he finds that constructing the embassy would constitute a threat to the national interests of the U.S.

Upon passage of the Dole bill, President Clinton issued a strongly worded statement opposing the legislation, characterising it as "a mistake that could undermine the peace process." He made clear that he would neither sign nor implement the bill. Since 90 per cent of both the Senate and House had voted for the legislation, Mr. Clinton knew he could not sustain a veto of the bill; but by using the waiver authority he had succeeded in adding to the legislation, the administration can delay it indefinitely.

By any measure, the congressional legislation is an obnoxious insult to Arabs and Muslims. It undercuts U.S. credibility and threatens the legitimacy of the U.S.-sponsored peace process. It also contributes to deepening the enmity towards the West that is widespread in the Middle East. While leaders in the region may understand the complications of U.S. domestic politics and the resolve of the administration to prevent the legislation from disrupting the peace process, to most Arabs and Muslims the legislation is simply another evil action taken by Americans against the firmly held belief in Jerusalem's Arab and Islamic identity. The anger and demoralisation that this has caused must be factored into any understanding of the legislation's consequences.

For the time being, Likud and its allies have won. They have demonstrated their residual power in Congress; and Congress has demonstrated its inability to rise

above crass election year pandering.

But despite all of this, the time-bomb created by the Jerusalem legislation has a fuse that can be extended indefinitely. Its length will be determined by the extent to which Arabs and Muslims work, even at this late date, to convince the administration and the American people of the danger of an early embassy move.

If pressures from Israel and pro-Likud elements in the American Jewish community continue to mount without being countered by equally strong pressure from Arabs and Muslims which makes clear the danger such a move would pose to peace and U.S.-Arab relations, the administration may find it difficult to continually utilise the waiver authority.

In real sense, the fight for Jerusalem is not over, but is entering another phase. For the Palestinians, this phase will require tough negotiations and most probably some effort at effective mass action in demand of their rights. From the U.S. side, of course, all is a matter of politics: to win, Arabs must be committed to play a game in which morality and reason are not the trump cards — political power is all that matters.

It is important to note that the Jerusalem legislation received only scant attention from the U.S. press. It was eclipsed in the headlines and on editorial pages by the crude insult New York City Mayor Rudolf Giuliani delivered to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Giuliani, a Republican, won the 1993 mayoral race with strong support from some segments of the city's Jewish community. He owed this support in part to an alliance with Democratic New York State Legislator Dov Hikind.

Mr. Hikind is a leader in the emerging Orthodox Jewish community. He is not only a Likud supporter, but also a Jewish Defence Leagues leader and a big contributor to Gush Emunim settlement activity. Hikind's support for Giuliani was, in part, a reflection of the deepening division between New York's Orthodox Jews and the African-American community. This divide was a major sidelight to the 1993 mayoral election in which Mr. Giuliani defeated incumbent Mayor David Dinkins, an African American.

By ordering Mr. Arafat to leave a city-sponsored concert in honor of the United Nations' 50th anniversary, Mr. Giuliani was less concerned with diplomacy than he was with continuing to please Hikind and his extremist constituency.

As in the case with Senator Dole's action, mainstream Jewish groups did not publicly challenge the mayor. Their silence is an indication that while those organisations support the peace process and have met with Chairman Arafat, they have not yet found the courage to speak out against nominally pro-Israel moves that damage the peace process, or to defend the PLO's chairman — even though it was through Arafat's leadership that peace became possible.

To their credit, both the administration and the national press roundly rebuked the mayor. The White House and the State Department both denounced Giuliani's undiplomatic insult to the "leader of the Palestinian people," and the press editorialised, calling the mayor crude, inhospitable and insulting to the Palestinians, to New York and to the American people.

A New York newspaper made clear that this was not the first time that a New

York mayor had insulted Arabs in a crude effort to pander for votes. In the 1950's then-Mayor Robert Wagner snubbed Saudi Arabia's King Saud when he visited the city. In the 1960's then-Mayor John Lindsay cancelled a dinner in the honor of King Faisal, and in the 1970's then-Mayor Ed Koch personally and publicly criticised President Jimmy Carter's Middle East peace proposal. But this was the first time that both the administration and the press combined to publicly rebuke a New York mayor for such obvious and insulting pandering.

Both the Jerusalem legislation and the New York mayor's actions are disgraceful, but they are also dangerous warning signs of a U.S. political process that may be moving out of control.

In both instances Arab-Americans attempted to fight back. We organised against Dole's bill, mobilising allies in the Christian churches and speaking out in the press. But we were fighting an uphill battle, in part because our organisations are understaffed and overworked, and because we fought alone at times. There was no coordination with official Arab representatives and their counter-arguments to these ridiculous acts did make their way into the national debate.

It is still not too late. We can rise above the Giuliani insult and turn it against the mayor; and we can, at least, mute the danger of the Dole bill. But doing so will require us to take seriously the American political arena. Quiet diplomacy from governments will not work (nor, for that matter, will violence or threats of violence from opposition groups). The only path to changing the current sad state of affairs is developing and implementing a political strategy that fully engages in the American political debate.

We can still save Jerusalem and our dignity, but first we must decide that we want to.

## LETTERS

## Celebrating two decades of work and achievements

To the Editor,

IT HAS been a source of satisfaction for me to observe the quality and objectivity of your information and your independence, traits that have transformed the Jordan Times into a tribune of open expression for all opinions. The free and objective press reflects the maturity of a people and its leaders, and requires from its journalists a high level of professionalism and seriousness; attributes I have always found in your newspaper.

Jorge Iglesias,  
Ambassador of Chile,  
Amman.

YOUR 20TH anniversary marks a new era in the history of the Jordanian press and we hope you will achieve further success in serving the profession and the homeland under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

We at the Amman Chamber of Industry follow what you write about industrial progress in Jordan and the role of the chamber in boosting the contribution of the private sector towards our development process. Your work in enhancing the status of the Jordanian press on the local and international levels is very much appreciated.

Khalid Abu Hassan,  
President,  
Chamber of Industry,  
Amman.

ON BEHALF of all members of the staff, I wish for the Jordan Times every progress and success in conveying Jordan's message to the world

Abdullah Utom,  
Director, the Jordan News  
Agency, Petra.

MAY I take the opportunity to extend to you all wishes and hopes that the Jordan Times will continue to be a forum for expressing right and justice as a major contributor to supporting the press march in Jordan.

Nabil Al Sharif,  
Editor in Chief,  
Al Dustour.

FIRST LET me congratulate the Jordan Times on its 20th anniversary and add my voice to the many who have praised its contribution to journalism here. In particular, the 20th anniversary supplement is a valuable record of its many achievements as well as being provocative in its own right. So provocative that I wish to comment in some detail on the article by Ziad Rifai on the "Status of media training in Jordan."

Dr. Rifai's analysis is thorough and full of refreshing and honest insights. I found his concept of "readers' rights" and the problems these cause for the media in Jordan extremely helpful. But in some important respects, he is now out of date. A lot has happened here since the seminar he addressed last year on the role

of the media in a democracy. And Jordan is at the centre of many of the most exciting media developments in the whole Eastern Mediterranean.

Our Med-Media project has established in Amman, at a location provided by Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JR&TC), the first regional training resource centre, giving support and coordination to media organisations throughout the Eastern Mediterranean, from Turkey to Egypt. This is a tribute to the foresight and determination of some Jordanians who can see how the country could benefit from the media explosion that is about to hit the region and are determined that it should.

This centre should be the site for the kind of "library of Jordanian newspapers for research purposes" that Dr. Rifai calls for. It could be the beneficiary of the kind of economic investment that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit is discussing. It is already becoming the first point of contact for many journalists both inside and outside the region who want objective support and information.

I would be ironic if the Med-Media Training Resource Centre in Amman was of more benefit to Jordan's neighbours than to Jordan. Communications, attitudes and traditions here give Jordan many natural advantages as a regional centre for the media. It offers the kind of investment opportunities that many of those visiting Amman for the MENA summit are searching for.

Tudor Lomas,  
Director,  
Med-Media Training Project,  
Hilversum, The Netherlands.







## Philippine maid could get 'light' jail term - judge

DUBAI (AFP) — Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan could be sentenced to a "light" term in prison on Monday after the family of the man she killed dropped its demand for her execution, a former judge said.

The young maid was condemned to death last month when a United Arab Emirates (UAE) court convicted her of the premeditated murder of her UAE employer Mohammad Abdullah Al Baloushi, rejecting her claim that he had raped her.

But Baloushi's family two weeks ago dropped its long-held demand for the death penalty and said they would accept "blood money" as compensation after UAE President Zayed Ben Sultan Al-Nahayan intervened.

The head of the appeals court in the city of Al Ain, Sheikh Baya Ben Salig, told AFP his tribunal would deliver a new verdict when it meets on Monday as the state must still punish a crime against public order.

He gave no clue as to what the sentence would be. A former UAE judge who asked not to be named said it would most likely be a "light" jail sentence. In eleven previous cases where families had "forgiven" killers, prison terms ranged from two to 15 years, a UAE official said.

Although there can be no further appeal, the case could go before a court of cassation, which determines whether the proceedings in the court of appeal were carried out properly, officials said.

Philippine diplomats, who have been closely involved in Ms. Balabagan's defence,

have insisted she should be acquitted, arguing she acted in self-defence when she stabbed Baloushi with the knife he used to rape her.

Ms. Balabagan has already served 15 months in jail.

The death sentence had sparked protests in the Philippines, already angry over the March hanging in Singapore of another maid, Flor Contemplacion, for a double murder. France also protested over Ms. Balabagan's sentence.

The UAE official insisted that Sheikh Zayed had persuaded the Baloushis to drop the death penalty in line with UAE and Muslim tradition and not as a result of international pressure. "This case is not unique," he said.

The death penalty was imposed in a retrial ordered by UAE authorities, who cancelled a verdict in June jailing Ms. Balabagan for seven years for manslaughter and ordering her to pay 150,000 dirhams (\$40,000) in blood money.

The court also found that Ms. Balabagan had been raped and awarded her 100,000 dirhams (\$27,000) in compensation.

The judges in the retrial heard new testimony saying she had not been raped. UAE officials also said Ms. Balabagan was 27 years old when she killed Baloushi. Ms. Balabagan said she was 16, although she arrived in the UAE on a passport listing her age as 28.

Ms. Balabagan's parents have been in the UAE since the appeals process began. "They are expecting they can bring Sarah home soon," Labour Attache Danilo Cruz said earlier this month.

## Struck Palestinians head back to Libya from Cyprus ferry

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A group of 30 Palestinians stranded on board a car ferry for more than two weeks headed back to Libya late Saturday, the country which they had originally left, Cypriot officials said.

The passengers disembarked from the Countess M, their floating home since Oct. 13, and boarded a smaller boat, the Crown, which left the Cypriot port of Larnaca on Saturday for Libya, an official said.

Both boats belong to the same Greek company. Palestinian Ambassador to Cyprus Samir Abu Ghazala told AFP that the Palestinian representation in Tripoli and the Libyan ambassador in Cyprus had told him that Libya had agreed to let the remaining passengers return.

They had been among 650 Palestinians, mostly workers who had lost their jobs accompanied by their families, who left Tripoli on Oct. 13 for Syria. But they were refused entry by Syria and the Countess M has been anchored at Larnaca since Oct. 17.

More than 610 passengers with Syrian documents were later taken in by Syria in a change of heart, and 13 were

flown to Jordan. Mr. Abu Ghazala thanked the Cypriot government for all its efforts "especially on the humanitarian side." He also thanked Arab embassies and "in particular our Syrian brothers who have accepted to take in the largest number."

Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi began to expel Palestinians from Libya in early September to show up the failure of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accords to create a Palestinian homeland. So far 5,000 have left, and another 1,000 are stranded at a tent camp on the Libyan-Egyptian border.

Colonel Qadhafi said Wednesday he would halt the expulsions of the Palestinians for three to six months and allow those in the camp to return.

Despite the creation of Palestinian autonomous areas, Israel still controls the borders of Gaza and the West Bank and uses its own strict criteria about which Arabs enter.

Arab countries have refused to take in Palestinians other than those who have relevant travel documents.

## Mubarak: U.S. vote harms Arab ties with Israel

ALEXANDRIA (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned Sunday that a U.S. Congress vote to move the American embassy in Israel to Jerusalem would affect Arab normalisation with the Jewish state.

He said the decision, which President Bill Clinton has vowed to block, would also affect the summit on economic development in the Middle East and North Africa attended by Israel and 63 other countries in Amman on Sunday.

"Certainly, this decision will have repercussions on the Amman summit because it concerns not only Arab countries but also Islamic nations," Mr. Mubarak told reporters in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

Mr. Mubarak, whose government initially played down the significance of the decision last week, said the vote on Tuesday had come at

a sensitive time after the signing of an Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on extending Palestinian self-rule.

He warned it would have "repercussions on the peace process and on the process of normalisation with countries that have concluded peace with Israel."

Mr. Mubarak, however, said he was confident that Mr. Clinton realised that the decision was not in the interests of the United States and hoped it would not stand in the way of progress in the peace process.

In Cairo, the Arab League's secretary general, Esmat Abdul Meguid, called for a mini-summit of Arab countries to discuss the congress vote to move the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by May 1999.

Congress has, however, allowed Mr. Clinton to suspend the move indefinitely.

Dr. Abdul Meguid, cited in the Egyptian daily Al Wafd on Sunday, said: "I expect a positive response from several parties in the region in favour of holding an Arab mini-summit."

He was to discuss the issue with Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), and other Arab leaders on the sidelines of the Amman summit.

He recalled that the league's members had responded to a similar call in May when Israel tried to seize Arab land in East Jerusalem, although that summit was cancelled after the Jewish state revoked the decision.

An Arab League source told AFP that the organisation hoped the mini-summit would be attended by Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the PNA, Saudi Arabia and Morocco. Morocco chairs the Jerusalem committee of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

On Saturday the PNA appealed for an urgent meeting of the Arab League and the Jerusalem Committee to work against the Congress decision.

However, a league official said it had not yet received in writing an official request for a meeting. The Arab League, split by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, has not held a summit since that date.

Kuwait said on Sunday the U.S. Congress vote could hamper the Middle East peace process.

"The cabinet expressed regret over this decision," a cabinet statement said.

It said it took this position because of the Islamic World's feelings towards Jerusalem and the city's religious, historical and cultural significance for mankind.

## MENA conference gets a positive start

(Continued from page 1)

n... for serious investment in the future of the region," said Prince Hassan, who is chairing the conference.

"The region has changed," the Crown Prince told the official and business delegates attending the gathering. "The Middle East is open for business."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is heading a delegation of 125 American companies, said that "while governments can build the foundation, it is business that has to build the lasting structure."

"For too long this has been a region of warriors and widows," said Mr. Christopher. "It once again should become a region of builders and traders."

He called the Arab World to end its boycott of Israel. Describing the boycott as "the most harmful political barrier to greater economic openness," he said, the boycott "maintains walls at a time when negotiations are bringing them down."

While agreeing on the necessity of economic liberalisation and the dismantling of economic and trade barriers, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat stressed that the Palestinian economy will need international assistance to help it become competitive in light of the crippling effect the Israeli occupation has had on it.

Mr. Arafat pointed out that the Palestinians continued to suffer economically despite their interim peace agreement with Israel. He

said the territories were sealed off for 222 days in the last 14 months.

He said that every day the border is sealed, Palestinians lost several million dollars in lost earnings and faced further delays in economic development.

"We would be able to build our economy so we can participate fully in regional cooperation," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Rabin said countries could not expect large inflow of foreign capital simply because they had signed peace agreements.

"No one will come here because of our winning smiles," Mr. Rabin told the delegates. "They all want to make money."

Mr. Rabin said that the region needs to move fast to make up for lost time, adding that the efforts of the countries of the region should be directed towards the economy and improving the lives of the people.

Mr. Rabin said the region will need the cooperation of outside parties, official and private, in overcoming its economic problems and standing up to the challenges facing it.

Other speakers who addressed the opening session were Moroccan Prime Minister Abdul Latif Al Filali, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrei Kozyrev, Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, who is the president of the European Union's Council of Ministers, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, Canadian Fore-

ign Minister Andre Ouellet, Japanese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Yasuo Fukuda and President of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab.

The common theme underlined by all the speakers was the need for cooperation in rehabilitating the economies of the Middle East region and the important role the private sector should play in the process.

"We business leaders are here to make a decisive contribution to political stability. This contribution shall be made by generating investment, joint ventures and business alliances. For this reason, we are proud that the programme integrates such a strong project dimension."

said Dr. Schwab, who spoke on behalf of 1,100 businessmen who are attending the summit.

Fast, sustained economic development is what will decide the race for the hearts and minds of the masses between economic progress and revolutionary, radical fervour," he said. Achieving such development involves massive restructuring and vast amounts of capital, technology and managerial skills, foreign investment must contribute substantially to process.

"The key to marrying the east needs of the Middle East and North Africa with the demands of foreign capital lies in a dual approach — regional policies, in which governments have a major role to play, and economic liberalisation that leaves the

floor to private enterprise. Regional networks fully endorsed and backed by all governments in areas such as petroleum pipelines, electricity generation and distribution, communications, tourism and water are the best way of bridging gaps."

Addressing journalists at the end of the first day of the conference, Prince Hassan said the event was moving in the right direction, saying that many achievements have been made in the first day.

Prince Hassan pointed to the signing of agreements on the establishment of a regional business council, a Middle East and Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Agency and regional economic development working group.

"The day from our perspective has gone extremely well," Prince Hassan said.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Dennis Brown echoed the Crown Prince in describing the summit as successful, saying that "much has been made."

The plenary sessions of the summit included discussions of the role of the international community in supporting the economic underpinnings of peace building, the requirement of a successful regional business strategy, regional stock markets, trade financing, the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in creating growth and employment as well as special economic zones and water.

The conference will also discuss regional projects proposed by Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian National Authority as well as Oman and Qatar.

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## Accord reached on bank, regional bodies

(Continued from page 1)

officials, Amman also liked to be the base for one of the two councils.

European diplomats said Jordan was apparently seeking to ensure that the policymaking institution as well as one of the two councils will be based in Amman in further discussions with the various parties involved. Such discussions could stretch until the end of the year when the articles of the regional development bank would be finalised.

The U.S. officials, in their background briefing, said the REDWG secretariat, which will be an umbrella body for all sub-committees on regional economic cooperation, will be complementary to the development bank and the

tourism and business councils as well as other related institutions.

The bank will have a capital of \$5 billion, said the officials without elaboration. But diplomats said the figure was the authorised capital and the initial paidup capital was tentatively set up at \$1.25 billion.

With the Europeans staying away from investing in the bank, the \$1.25 billion also appeared to be a high target.

Germany said the European Union was not, at this point, interested in investing in the bank. Saudi Arabia also said it was not interested. The positions of the other members of the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were not immediately known. Mohammad Al Noweis, the

deputy finance and trade minister of the United Arab Emirates, was quoted by AFP that Gulf states would "wait and see what happens" before deciding whether to contribute to the bank.

"We have so many organisations which have been providing credit under excellent terms for more than 20 years," Mr. Noweis said. "It would be better to have cooperation between these organisations which know the region's priorities rather than create a new bank."

The U.S. officials said the door was open for those who did not want to join the bank in the initial stages to sign on later.

The draft final declaration says the bank "will be structured to promote de-

velopment of the private sector, support regional infrastructure projects, and provide a forum to promote regional economic cooperation."

An international task force entrusted with establishing the bank "will finalise its negotiations by Dec. 31, 1995, and will continue to explore proposals for the creation of a project preparation and financial mediation facility," says the document.

"Those wishing to join the bank will begin their national ratification processes thereafter. Others wish to leave open the option of joining the bank at a later date, in light of the evolution of institutional arrangements and other developments."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Man whipped for riding women's section of bus

TEHRAN (AFP) — A man was given 20 lashes of the whip for disguising himself as a woman to ride the women's section of a bus in Tehran, newspapers reported here Sunday. The man, identified as 31-year-old Mohsen, had braved the adventure to win a bet of 100,000 rials (\$25) he had made with his father to travel between their houses in a bus while dressed as a woman in a long coat and a scarf — bus while all women here are obliged to wear to conform to Islamic standards. But he was given away by his large size and men's shoes. Several fellow passengers "extremely angered by his act" beat him up, the papers said. A court sentenced him to 20 lashes of the whip for "the ugly act and his violation of Islamic principles." There are separate sections in buses for men and women as part of a campaign to segregate sexes according to Islamic law.

### Six killed in Israeli bus accident

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli bus went off the road and overturned in a ravine Saturday, killing at least six people and injuring 18, witnesses reported. They said the bus from the Jerusalem Sodom company was travelling towards the Dead Sea when it went off a winding road some 20 kilometres east of Jerusalem. Five of the injured were reported to be in serious condition. Ten Israel were killed a road accident four days ago.

### Radical daily's director arrested in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Director of a newspaper representing Islamic radicals was arrested in northeastern Iran, newspapers reported here Sunday. Sadeq Javadi-Hessari was arrested Saturday after the authorities suspended publication of the popular daily Tuss in the city of Mashhad in Khorasan province last week for defamation and breaking press laws. However, a court in Mashhad ordered the ban lifted on the paper on Saturday. The Pans-bid without giving a motive for the arrest. The Pans-bid international media watchdog Reporters Sans Frontieres had protested the paper's suspension in a letter to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

### Algeria denies urging extradition of preacher

SANAA (AFP) — The Algerian embassy here on Saturday denied having called for the extradition of an Algerian Islamic fundamentalist preacher arrested last month suspected of armed attacks in Yemen. In a letter to the Yemeni Foreign Ministry obtained by AFP, the embassy "categorically denies that a demand for the extradition of Algerian extremist Adem Salaheddin has been made by the 'ambassador or the Algerian authorities.'" A Yemeni Interior Ministry official said earlier in October that the Algerian ambassador, Chadi Ben Hadid, had submitted the request to the Sanaa authorities, but it had been turned down. Mr. Salaheddin and several of his followers were arrested on Sept. 28 in Dakh, about 80 kilometres from the southern port of Aden, after a shootout in which two policemen and an activist were killed, authorities said. The fundamentalist preacher — who has issued decrees threatening women with death if they venture out of their homes — entered Yemen as a teacher after a brief civil war that ended in July 1994. He gave up teaching to head a group of fundamentalists who were reported to have been involved in a number of incidents in September.

### Turkish troops kill 38 Kurd rebels

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Turkish security forces killed 38 Kurdish rebels and lost four of their own in fresh clashes in southeastern Turkey, the regional governor's office said on Sunday. Twenty-six guerrillas of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were killed during an operation on Saturday night near Genc town in Bingol province. Four soldiers died and five others were wounded in the clash, the office said. On the same day, troops killed five PKK rebels in Cukurca town near the Iraqi border. Seven other PKK guerrillas were killed in two separate clashes in the southeastern towns of Hazro and Yuksekova.

### Ethiopia expels 19 Sudanese workers — paper

KHARTOUM (R) — A Khartoum newspaper said on Sunday Ethiopia had tortured and expelled 19 Sudanese workers after months of strained diplomatic relations following an attack on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June. The privately-owned Akhbar Al Youm newspaper said the 19, who worked for Islamic organisations in Ethiopia, arrived at the eastern Sudanese town of Gaderif on Friday after being made to walk to the border. Since Sept. 1, Ethiopia has banned flights to and from Sudan and scaled down Sudan's diplomatic mission in Addis Ababa saying Khartoum refuses to hand over the person believed to have taken part in the assassination attempt on Mr. Mubarak. Sudan denies the man is within its borders and called the Ethiopian measures a plot hatched by countries wanting to spoil diplomatic relations between them.

### Farmer shot dead by Egyptian militants

MINYA (AFP) — Two militants Saturday shot dead an Egyptian farmer whom they suspected of collaborating with security services in the troubled Minya province of southern Egypt, police said. The farmer was gunned down in his car by the assailants who then fled into sugar cane fields lining the road. They suspected him of supplying information on wanted Islamic militants to the police in one of the strongholds of the main outlawed armed group, the Gamaa Islamiyah. The killing brought the death toll to 900 in a campaign launched in March 1992 by the militants to topple the government.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:30 Shelley Duvall's Bedtime Stories  
14:30 Hey Day  
15:00 Nature World of Mitsuki  
16:00 I Love Lucy  
16:30 Tarzan  
17:00 Children's programme — Cocotte Minute  
17:30 — Series — Maria Vandamme  
18:00 — News in French  
19:15 Magazine — Nimbus  
19:30 News Headlines  
19:35 McHale's Navy  
19:35 Wilton  
20:00 Inventions  
20:25 The Bold and the Beautiful  
21:10 Star Trek  
22:00 News in English  
22:25 Inspection Maroc  
23:59 American Chart Show

### PRAYER TIMES

04:28 Fajr  
05:48 Sunrise  
11:19 Dhuhur  
14:25 Asr  
16:33 Maghrib  
18:11 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swellfish, Tel. 810740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590,  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440,  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541,  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331,  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261,  
St. Epiphani Church Tel. 771751,  
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226,  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812328,  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691,  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fine weather conditions will prevail becoming cool at night with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 11/23  
Agaba ..... 18/28  
Deserts ..... 10/25

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley ..... 17/29

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 24, Agaba 35 Humidity  
readings: Amman 28 per cent,  
Agaba 50 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Hisham Kan'an ..... 649028  
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim ..... 649028  
Dr. Usman Hussain ..... 847289  
Dr. Isam Al Asmar ..... 890504  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairookh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yasouh pharmacy ..... 648495  
Shmiciani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairookh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najih pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qana ..... (—)  
Alquds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Ghassan Al Fagih ..... 96130  
Khalifah pharmacy ..... 95417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 61111  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 621111, 637777  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 643402  
Traffic Police ..... 896304  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605900  
Complaints ..... 199  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 767111  
Amman Municipality ..... 121  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 010230  
Overseas Calls ..... 623101  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101

Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Right Information ..... 08-53230  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 08-53330

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussien Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642816  
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642341/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhus, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmiciani ..... 607071  
Shmiciani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muhsen Hospital ..... 6472749  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612737  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 89161/115  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60224050  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

##### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:20 ..... Sanaw (RJ)  
08:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
08:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
09:10 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
16:15 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
16:45 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:05 ..... Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)  
18:10 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Bangkok, Jakarta (RJ)  
22:40 ..... Milan, Agaba (add) (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 ..... Khartoum (SD)  
09:30 ..... Khartoum (SD)

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22:40 ..... Milan, Agaba (add) (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 ..... Khartoum (SD)  
09:30 ..... Khartoum (SD)

## HIAZ RAILWAY



## Buses roll out of Sarajevo; Croats go to legislative polls

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Buses began rolling along the main road west out of Sarajevo on Sunday as the siege of the city eased little by little, but U.S. mediator Richard Holbrooke warned a lasting peace was far off.

Diplomats scrambled to prevent Serb-Croat fighting in eastern Croatia as voters chose a new parliament expected to give even more power to their authoritarian president.

The United States has handed over new evidence to the international war crimes court on the alleged Bosnian Serb slaughter of Muslim men around the enclave of Srebrenica in July, the Washington Post reported.

Reconnaissance photos and other intelligence material show some half dozen mass graves sites in addition to those already disclosed where Bosnian Muslims and human rights groups said thousands were killed after the U.N. "safe haven" fell on July 11.

President Alija Izetbegovic will lead the Bosnian government's delegation to peace talks in Ohio to begin Wednesday, Bosnia-Herzegovina radio announced.

Other Muslims in the joint Muslim-Croat delegation in-

clude Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, Foreign Minister Mohammad Sacirbey and Miro Lazovic, speaker of the Bosnia-Herzegovina parliament.

The Bosnian Croats in the delegation include Kresimir Zubak, president of the Muslim-Croat Federation created last year to end a bitter war between Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, voting in parliamentary elections, reiterated a Nov. 30 deadline for rebel Serbs in the last swathe of rebel-held land to return to Croatia or face a new war.

Eastern Slavonia will come back to Croatia by peaceful means or by the use of force, but "the deadline is the end of November," he told reporters after casting his ballot in polls for a new Croatian parliament.

The rebel Serbs holed up in Eastern Slavonia, a tiny strip of Croatian land on its border with Serbia, Saturday rejected a proposed peace deal brokered by Washington and the United States for the area's peaceful reintegration, saying it contained "unacceptable" points, notably a timetable of Zagreb's resumption of control.

The first passenger buses in 42 months left Sarajevo on the main road west under U.N. escort, after a truce agreement under which the warring factions are to guarantee freedom of movement to all civilians.

U.N. officials want the roads as open as possible to create a good atmosphere for the peace talks. Bosnia's government says in reality the city is still blockaded as civilians feel it is too dangerous to cross Serb-held territory.

With the negotiations to open on Wednesday, chief U.S. negotiator Holbrooke warned all sides were hardening their positions and said: "We are very far from an agreement."

He warned the Bosnian Serbs could not insist on their right to secede a future Bosnia, one of their declared demands. "There will be no peace if that is their position," he said.

Mr. Holbrooke, interviewed by Reuters in Washington, said that, in an effort to ensure Bosnia was not partitioned, NATO forces would be deployed along international borders as well as internally if a peace accord was reached.



Residents look at a five-storey building gutted when a booby-trapped truck blew up on Sunday in Rouiba, 15 kilometres outside Algiers, killing at least six people and wounding 93 (AFP photo)

## Blast kills 8, injures 83 in Algeria

ROUIBA, Algeria (Agencies) — Six people were killed and 98 injured when a booby-trapped truck blew up in Rouiba, 15 kilometres east of Algiers, state radio reported.

An earlier toll put the number of wounded at 83. Six of the injured are in a serious condition, the radio said.

The force of the blast almost entirely destroyed a five-storey building opposite a gendarmerie headquarters, around 5:15 a.m. (0413 GMT). Echoes were heard as far away as Algiers.

The attack came just hours after President Liamine Zerrouk officially launched his election campaign ahead of the first round of the presidential polls on Nov. 16.

In a televised speech Saturday night, Mr. Zerrouk, the front-runner, called on Algerians to "fight terrorism."

The Armed Islamic Group, the most radical rebel organisation fighting Algeria's military-backed regime, has claimed responsibility for some bombings and assassinations in the past and is active in the Rouiba region.

Radical groups have stepped up bombings and attacks on government forces in an effort to foil the first round of presidential elections Nov. 16. Most political parties are boycotting the vote.

Algeria's civil war broke out in January 1992 after the army cancelled legislative elections that a Muslim fundamentalist party was poised to win. More than 30,000 people have been killed.

A police station, located 20 metres from the truck bomb, that exploded Sunday, apparently was the target of the attack. Also destroyed was a five-storey residential building adjacent to the station.

## Islamic Jihad vows revenge for Shaqaqi; Israel on high alert

GAZA (Agencies) — The militant Islamic Jihad group on Sunday vowed to take revenge including suicide bombings after a suspected Israeli Mossad hit squad killed its leader Fathi Shaqaqi in Malta.

The Israeli army and police were placed on full alert as protests swept the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the news that Shaqaqi, 43, had been gunned down Thursday on the Mediterranean island of Malta.

Islamic Jihad blamed the Israeli secret service Mossad, and Israeli radio said Shaqaqi had long been a target.

"We will take revenge wherever it is in the world," said the fundamentalist group which has waged a violent campaign aimed at wrecking the Israeli-Palestinian Organisation (PLO) self-rule accords.

"We assure the Zionists and their leader (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin that this repugnant crime

has turned every Zionist wherever he is on the earth into a target for our fighters and our suicide bombers."

The Jihad said it had elected a new head, Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, 40, who lives in Lebanon.

There was no confirmation of any Israeli involvement in the killing, but Rabin said: "If the man who was killed was indeed Fathi Shaqaqi, I would not be sorry."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in Amman for a Middle East economic summit, said: "He who takes the risk of assassinating (Israelis) also takes the risk of being assassinated."

Shaqaqi was born in the teeming Rafah refugee camp in Gaza and helped form Islamic Jihad in the early 1980s. Israel arrested him in 1985 and expelled him to Lebanon three years later.

The PLO, Israel's peace partner, urged Islamic Jihad to refrain from attacking Israel, saying this could jeopardise the expan-

sion of Palestinian self-rule now under way in the West Bank.

"We appeal to Islamic Jihad to exercise self-restraint so that some hard-line groups in Israel would not achieve their goal of halting implementation of the agreement," said Tayeb Abdul Rahim, general secretary of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

At the Islamic university in Gaza on Sunday, a thousand students pounded their hearts with their fists and shouted, "Down with the olive branch, take up arms," while some of them burned Israeli and U.S. flags.

Islamic activist Ahmad Turuk told them the assassination had rekindled the torch of holy struggle.

It was not the first time Israel was keeping quiet about its possible role in such a killing. Arabs accuse Israel of hunting down activists from anti-Israeli militant groups going back decades, most famously the

killers of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Israeli intelligence services are also believed to be behind the killing of three Jihad leaders in Cyprus.

Dozens of mourning supporters visited the dead man's family home at Rafah, where a banner slung across the house facade said: "The Zionists must know that the sons of Islamic Jihad are grenades ready to explode."

Jihad official Sheikh Nafez Azzam admitted the killing had damaged the group: "It is a cataclysm which has hit the Palestinian people, the Arabs and the Muslims. Israel has without doubt struck a hard blow against the movement."

The Jihad leader had been in Malta on his way back to Damascus, where he was based, after talks in Libya with Libyan leader Moamar Qadhafi about 1,000 Palestinians stranded on the Libyan-Egyptian border.

## Iraq frees Saudis and Kuwaitis jailed for illegal entry to country

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Iraq has freed four Saudi Arabians and three Kuwaitis who were imprisoned for illegally entering the country, the Interior Ministry said Sunday.

Lieutenant-Colonel Adel Al Ibrahim, the ministry spokesman, told the Kuwaiti News Agency the men were released "as a result of relentless efforts by the Kuwaiti government in cooperation with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross."

He identified the Kuwaitis as Ahmad and Mohammad Al Azimi who were missing in February, and Fahad Al Rashidi, who strayed across the border in May 1993.

The spokesman did not say if the men had served their full prison terms.

The Saudis were identified as Fahm Al Shimmiri, Assi Al Shimmiri, Fares Al Thafiri and Farhan Al Shimmiri. It was not clear if they had entered Iraq from Kuwait or from Saudi Arabia.

Earlier this month, another Kuwaiti returned home after serving a prison sentence in Iraq for illegal entry.

The desert frontier between Kuwait and Iraq has been closed since the end of the Gulf war that liberated

Kuwait in February 1991 from a seven-month Iraqi occupation.

The border, marked by pillars and a trench, has been patrolled by U.N. observers since the war.

A senior Kuwaiti official warned Saturday the international community must force Iraq to pay compensation for its occupation of Kuwait.

Adel Assam, the head of the Kuwaiti commission evaluating the compensation due, told a press conference that "if Iraq does not fulfil its commitments, the U.N. Compensation Commission will find itself unable to complete its task to dozens of thousands of people."

Kuwait has so far claimed \$104 billion in damages for individuals and public and private sectors hit by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion.

Under U.N. resolutions Iraq is obliged to pay out all damages resulting from the occupation by allocating part of its future oil revenues to meet the claims.

Mr. Assam added that the compensation for ecological damage was "very high and have still not been evaluated," but added that a study prepared by the commission had estimated the losses at

"around 90 million dinars" (\$270 million).

Iraqi troops set fire to 730 oil wells, which burned for months, and sabotaged the main oil installations as they fled from the international coalition.

Another Kuwaiti official said hundreds of Kuwaitis who were injured or lost relatives in the Iraqi occupation and the 1991 Gulf war will receive reparations before the end of the year.

"Around \$3.6 million will be distributed most probably by December," a member of a state committee for assessing war damages told the Associated Press. He did not want to be named.

The Geneva-based U.N. Compensation Commission charged with the task of redressing victims of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, recently approved payment for 1,346 claims, the official said.

That would be the second group of Kuwaitis to receive war reparations. About 300 were handed cheques Aug. 2, 1994, the fourth anniversary of the Iraqi invasion.

The first payment totalled \$1.3 million with minimum compensation for injury or loss of a family member at \$2,500.

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**welcomes the Veteran peace-broker**  
**Mr. Sten Andersson**  
**and his Swedish delegation in the land of**  
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The horse is 5 years old, trained for dressage; has a very quiet temperament and is great with children.  
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<b>AC Delco</b>	<b>GM Parts</b>	<b>Allison</b>	<b>DETROIT DIESEL</b>	<b>POTAIN</b>
<b>SWEEPERS</b>	<b>SCHWING</b> Concrete Pumps, Batching Plants & Tunnel Mixers معدات خلط وجر وناقلات	<b>Pedershanb</b> Concrete Pipe Manufacturing Plants مصانع مواسير إسفلتية	<b>BEFRA</b> Wheel Loaders, Backhoes, Excavators لودرات عجلات، حفارات، وآلات حفر	<b>DETROIT DIESEL</b> معدات حفر وناقلات

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الزرقاء - المنطقة الحرة هاتف ٩٠٩١٦٠٥٢ - الفواحد - هاتف ٧٨١٨٤٤ - فاكس ٧٥٣٦٢٥





## Reality of peace found in deeds, not words

The following is the speech delivered by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the opening of the Amman economic summit Sunday:

ON BEHALF of President Clinton and the United States, I want to express my deep gratitude to King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan and the people of Jordan for hosting this Economic Summit.

Your Majesty, for four decades, you have been a force for peace in a region that has known so much war. You have infused your kingdom with a spirit of civility and tolerance. And working together with Prime Minister Rabin, Chairman Arafat, President Mubarak, King Hassan, and others, your vision and courage is transforming the Middle East.

Four short years ago, the Madrid Conference launched a process that has demonstrated that negotiations can succeed. Enemies can become partners. And across lands whose ancient religions have long inspired humanity, peace can prevail.

One month ago in Washington, we witnessed another historic agreement between the prime minister of Israel and the chairman of the PLO. Building on the 1993 Declaration of Principles, the deal they signed marks a great step forward toward the shining goal of Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation.

And just one year ago, in the desert south of Amman, the world watched as you, Your Majesty, and Prime Minister Rabin built a bridge of peace between your two peoples. Last week, Israel and Jordan signed agreements on agriculture, economic cooperation, and the Gulf of Aqaba — agreements that will bring the concrete benefits of peace.

If these accomplishments are to be truly secure, peace must be comprehensive. It must be extended to include both Syria and Lebanon. Today, I want to reaffirm, on behalf of President Clinton, that the United States will continue to work with the parties to help them achieve a breakthrough for peace.

We also know that peace must reach beyond diplomats and documents. Agreements between governments are the basis of peace. But the reality of peace is found in deeds, not words. Peace is the construction boom in Gaza, a four-fold increase in foreign investment in Israel, the desalination centre planned in Oman, and the tour package jointly promoted by El Al and Royal Jordanian Airlines.

For too long, this has been a region of warriors and widows. Let it again become a region of builders and traders. Let its future be shaped by the imagination and ingenuity of its entrepreneurs, the knowledge and curiosity of its children, and the wisdom and memory of its peoples.

This vision of a prosperous peace first brought us together a year ago in Casablanca. Here in Amman, we will fulfill the pledges we made in Casablanca. We will launch a series of regional institutions that share an overarching purpose — to improve the ability of the private sector to do business in the Middle East, and to promote the region's economic development and integration.

First, we will create the Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Bank's establishment is a major milestone — not least because it is the first such initiative put forward by the parties to the peace process themselves. Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinians, and Israel all agreed on the need for a bank that would support the region's most worthy private sector projects, promote privatisation and wide-ranging economic reform.

The United States is committed to ensuring that the Bank meets these critical needs, and that it is governed by strict rules of accountability. The Bank must complement, not duplicate, the efforts of other institutions such as the World Bank. The Bank must learn from the experience of similar regional institutions. We will work with our partners in the region and the international community to make sure that the Bank succeeds.

Second, this summit will establish the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association. Open

to governments and private firms everywhere, the Association will harness the world's largest industry — and one of its best sources of hard currency earnings — as a catalyst of regional economic growth. It will encourage cooperation within the region, and support its integration into global tourism networks.

In these lands of miracles and monuments are the red temples of Petra, the golden colonnades of Palmyra, the Roman ruins of Caesarea, the vast amphitheatre of Carthage, the giant thrones of Abu Simbel. Peace should throw the wonders of the Middle East open to the world. Already Jordan's tourism revenues have doubled in the year since it made peace with Israel. Other nations can do the same.

Third, we will launch the Regional Business Council with leaders from private business and government. The Council will be a permanent forum for exchanging information, developing investment opportunities, and encouraging a world-class business environment. I want to acknowledge the role of my Cabinet colleague, Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, in establishing this voice for business in the region.

Here in Amman, we must also go beyond our work at Casablanca. We must reinforce our public-private sector partnership for peace and foster patterns of commercial cooperation across the Middle East. Governments have a responsibility to lay the foundations for peace and prosperity. But the private sector has the opportunity to build the structure of a lasting peace reinforced by rising prosperity.

This public-private partnership is based on three mutually reinforcing pillars: first, the private sector; second, countries outside the region that have been at the forefront of efforts to support the peace process; and third, governments in the region. Let me briefly describe the unique challenges that each must meet.

The private sector must recognise and seize the business opportunities that peace is creating. The fact that hundreds of businesspeople have come to Amman is evidence that they are doing just that.

I am proud to say that among them are more than 125 American companies, many of whom are leading the way. Lockheed-Martin will conduct a feasibility study for a regional airport that will link Aqaba in Jordan and Eilat in Israel. The communications firms Sprint and AT&T will announce joint ventures with Jordanian partners to hook Jordan up with the information superhighway. Culligan Water Technologies will sign an agreement to manufacture bottled water in Jericho. And General Electric is close to finalising a large contract to supply Egypt with locomotives.

Ladies and gentlemen: Last year we announced that the Middle East was open for business. This year we declare that the Middle East is doing business.

As the peace process pushes on, agreement by agreement, the risks for business diminish, day by day. Business can profit while making a decisive contribution at a moment of rare historic opportunity.

At the same time, governments from outside the Middle East must do their part to accelerate the momentum of private sector involvement. The United States will continue to work with its friends around the world to promote the region's prosperity. We look especially to the European Union and Japan to continue their significant contributions to this effort.

For our part, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Exim Bank, and the Trade and Development Administration are working hard to ensure that American companies can take full advantage of regional trade and investment opportunities. These agencies are funding feasibility studies, providing investment guarantees, and offering risk insurance. OPIC, for exam-

ple, is capitalising a \$250 million regional fund for the Middle East and North Africa.

The United States has also launched a number of important bilateral initiatives with key regional parties. With the Palestinians, we have helped to mobilise the international donor effort, and pledged \$500 million in American assistance. Our Trade Representative Mickey Kantor has just finalised an agreement with the Palestinian Authority to allow exports from the West Bank and Gaza duty-free access to the American market. With Jordan, we are considering a bilateral investment treaty, and we have forgiven more than \$700 million of Jordanian debt to the United States. And with Egypt, we have launched a pathbreaking joint partnership for economic growth and development under the leadership of President Mubarak and Vice President Gore.

Of course, it is the governments in the region that bear the greatest responsibility for making the Middle East a world-class business environment. In the past, there has been far too much government regulation and inefficient public investment. Local private capital has fled the region and foreign capital has found greater incentives elsewhere.

To their credit, many governments in the region are now taking bold steps to put their economic house in order. Tunisia and Morocco, for example, have embraced a real economic reform. In the last decade, privatisation, deregulation, budget discipline, and currency reform, among other steps, have produced impressive leaps in economic growth in both countries. Not surprisingly, the private sector has responded. Between 1989 and 1994, direct foreign investment in Morocco more than tripled.

Jordan is another nation taking important steps toward reform. Its new investment code will give foreign firms the legal protections they need to take advantage of Jordan's many opportunities.

I also call on the region's governments to remove the most harmful political barrier to greater economic openness. The boycott against Israel maintains walls at a time when negotiations are bringing them down. It impedes regional economic integration. The boycott serves no one. While the boycott is being dismantled and many of the countries here no longer observe it, the moment is right to end the boycott completely.

The Middle East is on the verge of reconnecting its rich past to the boundless possibilities of the future. For centuries, this region witnessed the constant movement of people, ideas, and goods across its borders. Linen, glassware, olive oil, incense, pungent spices and precious metals were traded across the deserts and over the seas. The world passed through the Middle East, and the Middle East passed through the world.

Today we see this legacy in the Arabic numerals the world uses to count and in the coffee, first ground from Arabica beans, that the world loves to drink. And we see this legacy in the words we use — for damask cloth from Damascus and gauze from Gaza.

All these steps are essential if the region is to attract the skills and capital of international business. Now is the time for the Middle East to prepare to compete in the global economy. Now is the time for the Middle East to reinvent itself for the twenty-first century.

As we approach a new millennium, we can revive the trading routes of centuries past, and create new ones for today. Caravans of culture and commerce can travel by air, by fax, by microchip, and along the information superhighway.

The Middle East also has old words to return to the world — and most of all to itself. Let Salaam and Shalom become the watchwords of a prosperous new Middle East at peace.

A year ago in Casablanca, I borrowed a line from Humphrey Bogart when I suggest that the first Summit could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Allow me now to borrow once again from the spirit of that famous movie. Today, in Amman, it is time to play it again, Sam.

## Palestinians put \$6.3b plans to investors

By Suleiman Al Khalidi  
Reuters

AMMAN — Palestinian officials at the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit that opened Sunday have a precise figure in their heads for what it will take to get their ailing economy up and flourishing — \$6.335,000,000.

That is the sum total of the wish list hopeful officials, undaunted by past donor lethargy, have compiled of projects to lure international investors.

The list covers both Palestinian Authority and private sector projects and ranges from a bathroom ceramics factory to a health spa on the Dead Sea and an international airport in Gaza.

But most of their interest is in replacing and modernising the battered infrastructure the new authority has inherited after nearly 30 years of Israeli military occupation, compounded by eight years of violent political unrest in the intifada or Palestinian uprising.

"We are handicapped compared to other regional parties as a result of the (Israeli) occupation, and developing our infrastructure is a must to be able to deal with the region," Samir Abdullah, a leading Palestinian economist involved in the preparation of the list, told Reuters.

Palestinian officials said the largest allocation of \$1.93 billion goes to water projects, reflecting the scarce resource's vital importance to

economic development of the Palestinians.

The centrepiece is a \$1.5 billion canal which aims to divert water supplies from the West Bank to water-parched Gaza.

A private sector power project in Gaza and an electricity grid linking Palestinian areas with Jordan and Egypt are the main energy projects.

The Palestinian list also includes plans for highway networks to link the new Middle East of trade, including a "riviera" highway from Ismailia in Egypt to Ashdod in southern Israel, via self-ruled Gaza, and another road linking Gaza with Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba.

The proposed international airport in Gaza, along with a port on the Mediterranean,

would cost a cool \$179 million.

Other projects include setting up a Palestinian stock exchange, industrial estates, and tourism projects costing at nearly \$1 billion including beach front apartments in Gaza and a health spa at the Dead Sea.

Palestinian officials put forward the mammoth financing proposals despite donors' past sloth in stumping up pledges to help get the Palestinian Authority itself off the ground.

International donors vouched some \$2.5 billion of assistance when the PLO and Israel first made peace two years ago but the authority spent its first months virtually bankrupt as donors delayed payments and worried about

accountability. A delegation of over 50 Palestinian businessmen threatened to boycott the Amman summit to make a point about what they described as Israeli attempts to "strangle their economy."

But Mohammad Mastouji, head of Jerusalem Pharmaceuticals, put a positive spin on Palestinian investment prospects. "The possibility of attracting capital is weak if it is compared to the resources of our neighbours... but we have an advantage in that Palestine is virgin land for investment, needing nearly everything and so the chance to start there is a valuable opportunity for investors, as returns are higher."

## Israel '96 budget up on W. Bank redeployment

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's treasury said Sunday it was proposing a 3.1 per cent rise in the state budget in 1996 to help pay for the army's redeployment in the West Bank and Israeli social services.

Finance Minister Abraham Shohat briefed reporters on details of the \$57.6 billion budget proposal to be

brought to parliament Monday.

According to the proposal, Israel's total spending, deducting debt repayment, will grow in real terms by 3.1 per cent in 1996 compared with 1995, to cover an increase in defence spending due to redeployment and a rise in funding of social services.

## Jordanians complain of low wages, uneasy working conditions

▲ A LARGE sector of the labour market suffers from low salaries which range between JD 35 to JD 60 per month. This sector comprises workers in the private schools, sewing workshops, confectionaries, dairy plants, nurseries as well as secretaries, messengers and assistant pharmacists. These workers are aware of the labour legislations that protect their rights but they cannot exercise them of fear that they might not get a job to cover the minimum requirements for living. Bassam Maani, manager of Al Amin Clothing Factory, says that one third of all workers in the textile industry are foreigners who accept low pay, much less than what a local labourer would accept. Mr. Maani estimates the number of workers in the textile sector at 30,000, supporting about 150,000 persons, most of them working for low pay. He says that a girl would start working for JD 40 a month and her pay goes up to JD 60 after two years.

Iyad Azzah, manager of Al Azzah textile Workshop, confirms that the low wages are paid and points out that working hours stretch from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Should work stop for any reason, wages are not paid until the stoppage period is deducted, he says. "Obviously there is an exploitation to the workers' situation," Amneh, a teacher at a private school, says. "I get paid JD 30 a month for teaching despite having signed a contract that my salary is JD 90 according to the terms set by the Ministry of Labour." She adds: "Despite knowing that injustice has been done to me, I have agreed to this situation because the alternative is to sit (at home) unemployed." Amneh asserts that she is not the only one facing this problem as there are many who are forced to do other duties, the least of which being to accompany the student to their homes after classes. Jamil, a worker at a dairy plant, works from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. for JD 57 a month. He says he had accepted this job because he could not tolerate being unemployed at home. "But, after experience, I found out that sitting at home is more honourable and I may be resigning before the article appears in your paper," Jamil adds.

At a clinic, the secretary of a doctor says it is extreme injustice when a secretary gets paid JD 35 or JD 50 which acting as an occupation for about JD 5,000 of the doctor's income each month. She complains that secretaries are forced to work on holidays without pay and that leaves are granted according to doctors' moods.

Another secretary says some doctors or other employers are seeking a maid under the title of a secretary to clean the office and prepare coffee or tea. She adds: "They (employers) do not recognise any annual raises at all and do not pay for overtime work." In short, she explains, this job is not rewarding, does not include health insurance and does not carry any social security, pension or compensation.

Salem Hijazin, head of the association of workers in the health services, says a good number of secretaries earn between JD 30 and JD 40 per month and work for long hours. He says the situation is also bad for assistant pharmacists as there are some 5,000 of them unemployed. (Al Ra'i).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JERUSALEM									
TELEPHONE: 507171 / 507172									
ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SYDNEY 29/10/1995									
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	NEW CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE				
ARAB BANK P.C.	140	33735	240.500	240.750					
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	200	888	4.410	4.440					
CLUB ARAB BANK	2050	4000	4.500	4.400					
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1050	2510	2.390	2.390					
THE HOUSING BANK	5000	27700	4.780	4.540					
JORDAN GULF BANK	33100	34615	1.150	1.150					
BUSINESS BANK	2000	6720	3.360	3.360					
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1000	18045	3.710	3.710					
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	22542	23318	1.010	1.050					
PELLADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	3900	6120	1.530	1.590					
BANKS SECTOR		72094	158637	INDEX NUMBER: 150.49	CHANGE: -0.11%				
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	14064	23535	1.650	1.680					
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	217	673	5.800	5.750					
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	2000	5245	2.650	2.600					
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1500	3075	2.030	2.050					
UNION MIDDLE EAST & CONDOMINIUM HOTELS	4400	10426	2.350	2.380					
ARAB HOTEL FOR CONFERENCE & EDUCATION	3950	12953	3.290	3.290					
SARAF PAPER INDUSTRY	4250	8673	1.310	1.330					
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	5050	5603	1.100	1.110					
SERVICES SECTOR		35331	67182	INDEX NUMBER: 128.18	CHANGE: +0.20%				
ATTACHEE CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	550	660	1.210	1.200					
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	13077	48466	3.650	3.710					
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	4250	8673	1.310	1.330					
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1117	3842	3.300	3.470					
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	468	2214	4.650	4.790					
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	200	3440	7.100	7.200					
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES	1600	18465	5.300	5.400					
LIVESTOCK & ROULTRY	11350	80441	4.80	4.70					
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	6250	8933	1.400	1.430					
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	1630	1727	1.050	1.060					
DIFFERENT FIBRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2850	5330	1.850	1.870					
JORDAN ROCKWELL INDUSTRIES	500	500	1.000	1.000					
JORDAN SUBRO-CHEMICALS	1850	2415	1.290	1.310					
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1500	2995	1.980	2.000					
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1500	2995	1.980	1.970					
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	300	303	1.850	1.870					
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	16400	24079	1.440	1.480					
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY	10150	20402	2.000	2.010					
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR		175980	219500	INDEX NUMBER: 124.77	CHANGE: +1.05%				
GRAND TOTAL		283405	445319	INDEX NUMBER: 150.96	CHANGE: +0.28%				
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET			198660						
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET			116793						

## UPI and BBC Monitoring form alliance

DUBAI — United Press International (UPI) and BBC Monitoring have agreed to a joint marketing relationship to offer Middle Eastern news products for real-time delivery on the UPI global satellite network.

"Our combined Middle East services will make up one of the most comprehensive news and information services for media, business and other interested parties in the region," said Rosy Wolfe, director of international marketing for BBC Monitoring.

The BBC and UPI identified the importance of this type of information for the public and private sectors in the region and around the world, continued Ms. Wolfe. "BBC Monitoring's products are respected throughout the world and with UPI's satellite delivery and superb software platform, UPI World View, our service can now reach the customers as soon as the news becomes available, increasing the value of our information significantly."

BBC Monitoring, part of the BBC World Service, was established in 1939 to monitor political and economic developments reported by the world's broadcasters and local media to provide a global news and information service.

UPI has maintained world-class reporting from nearly every country since 1907, and for the last decade has been at the forefront of information delivery technology. UPI World View software for Windows, introduced to the Gulf at GITEF 1994, allows users to select only the news they want from a variety of UPI delivered information sources.

## Financial Markets

### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (Oct. 23 - Oct. 27, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit appreciated noticeably against the yen last week, while appreciating modestly against the mark and depreciating against sterling. It ended the week 1.44 per cent higher against the yen, 0.78 per cent higher against the mark, and 0.29 per cent lower against sterling.

The dollar witnessed modest losses against other major currencies Monday. Reports indicated that the dollar's weakness was attributed to the mark's strength, which rose on concerns of political instability in some European countries. The mark rose against the Italian lira on expectations that the Italian prime minister might resign if the Italian parliament passed a no confidence vote in its upcoming meeting on Thursday. Meanwhile, the mark rose against the French franc on news that a French lawyer asked the government to investigate the issue of the rent that the French president pays.

The U.S. unit rose against the mark and the yen Tuesday, while stabilising against sterling. The dollar benefited from comments by Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, who said that the recent fluctuations in the currency market were exaggerated. He also pointed out that the Bundesbank is willing to participate in concerted interventions in the future. Analysts indicated that the timing of these comments was to rebuff the belief that the Bundesbank is not concerned about the mark's recent appreciation against the dollar.

The dollar depreciated against the mark and sterling Wednesday, however, while appreciating against the yen. Analysts indicated that the dollar's rise against the yen came on the back of strong demand for U.S. denominated assets from Japanese investors. Meanwhile, in an effort to bolster the dollar, Mr. Tietmeyer pointed out that the dollar's exchange rates do not reflect the prevailing economic fundamentals.

The U.S. unit continued its depreciation against other major currencies Thursday. The dollar came under pressure as the Mexican peso tumbled on investors' worries about the performance of the Mexican economy. The dollar rose against other major currencies at the end of the week, however. Reports indicated that the dollar rose after the release of the U.S. GDP figures, showing an annualised rise of 4.2 per cent in the 3rd quarter, compared to a rise of 1.3 per cent in the 2nd quarter. News that Russian President Boris Yeltsin, was taken to a hospital prompted dealers to square long mark positions and buy safe haven dollars.



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AND AT 079-38828 FROM 6:00 P.M. ONWARDS.

## Agreement signed for bromine plant

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — On the fringes of the three-day Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit under way in Amman, agreements for two important regional projects were concluded yesterday. Ministers from eight countries signed an agreement to set up a regional tourism board and the potash companies of Jordan and Israel agreed to start joint production of bromine on the Dead Sea.

The heads of the Arab Potash Company and the Israeli Dead Sea Bromine Company reached a joint agreement to establish a joint factory on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea, to be called the Middle East Bromine Company, said Shalom Tourgeman, second secretary of press and cultural affairs at the Israeli embassy in Amman.

The company should start operations in three years, Mr. Tourgeman said, adding that the company's launching capital is \$50 million, with both Jordanians and Israelis contributing \$25 million. Production of the Middle East Bromine Company, which will have a joint Israeli-Jordanian management, is expected to reach 25,000 tonnes of bromine per year. The company will employ 250 workers, with recruitment expected to be from both countries. Also alongside the MENA

conference, ministers from Jordan, Israel, Egypt, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Tunisia, Turkey and Cyprus initiated a charter to establish the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association (MEMTTA). The charter was developed under the auspices of the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

The aim of MEMTTA will be to coordinate tourist activities in the region, specifically in the areas of marketing and the training of manpower to be employed in tourism. The association will also create a database for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf, Mr. Tourgeman said.

According to information released by the United States Information Service (USIS), MEMTTA is a new kind of public-private partnership that ties government and private sector organisations in a common effort to make possible the movement of people across borders to visit on business and pleasure. The association's primary mission is to increase environmentally sustainable travel to and within the region had to develop the tourism industry serving the region, the USIS press release stated.

According to Mr. Tourgeman, MEMTTA will begin to recruit members from the public and the private sector once the MENA summit is over, in order to prepare for the association's first meeting in May of next year.

## \$370 electricity grid project proposed at MENA summit

By Cathy King

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The power system interconnection, linking the electricity grids of Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestine National Authority is one of Jordan's 27 government project proposals being presented at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit.

The energy sector's project facilities will be built in two major phases which are estimated to cost a total of \$370.4 million and the scheduled completion date for the whole project is the end of 1999.

Phase I will connect electric power grids of Jordan with that of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and Israel.

The estimated capital cost of the first phase is \$240 million, of which the Jordanian component amounts to around \$152 million. The Kingdom hopes for external financing for 80 per cent (about \$120 million), while the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) will meet the remaining costs.

Much of the costs calculated for the Jordanian part of Phase I will be incurred through "essential system reinforcement."

In the meantime, a grid link is currently under construction between the Egyptian and Jordanian Red Sea ports of Taba and Aqaba, and is expected to be operational in 1997.

Phase II of the project to be debated over the next two days of the summit is the grid

interconnection of Egypt, the PNA and Israel. The estimated capital cost of this second phase amounts to \$129.9 million.

Estimated operational and maintenance costs of the projects are 1.2 per cent of capital costs. The JEA's generating plants are entirely dependent on thermal energy — oil gas and the national grid is currently 132 kilovolt (KV), but the main Aqaba-Amman transmission facilities should be upgraded to 400 KV by 1997 to maintain the technical integrity of the interconnected regional system.

At either end of the Aqaba-Amman line substations will be constructed.

The JEA is presently undergoing privatisation, as a consequence of a Cabinet decision taken in early 1994, and should be completed by the end of the year.

The Kingdom's electrical consumption has multiplied five-fold in the last 14 years, from 1,000 mega Watt hours (GWh) to 5,000 GWh, representing an average growth rate of 11.8 per cent annually.

This is attributable to population growth and a 99 per cent increase in public access to electricity, in addition to the establishment of large energy-intensive industries such as cement, potash and phosphates.

High consumption rates and almost total dependence on imported oil present the energy sector with its greatest problems.

Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the occupied territories have

each of their electric grid main load and generation centres within a radius of less than 300 kilometres.

One outcome of the peace process was the Regional Economic Working Group which agreed in 1994 to initiate preparations for the electric power grid interconnection of all four areas.

The interconnection's objectives are to: Reactivate historic Jordan/Palestinian relations; provide an alternative power supply to the PNA; facilitate bilateral exchanges of power to the technical needs of and economic benefits for each partner; and permit single directional power transport and reduction of network losses. Interconnection will also allow for greater efficiency of system operations.

The project will be overseen by an international firm of engineering management consultants that is accountable to a steering committee comprised of power system decision-makers from each of the four parties involved.

Provided that funding is secured in the next few months, construction should begin by the end of 1997 and would be completed within two years.

The project's principle benefits are the avoidance of installation costs, along with operating and maintaining about 575 mega Watts of new generating capacity reserve in the region, otherwise required by the year 2000.

Until such time as financing is secured, the implementation of Phase I of the project will be stalled.

## King rejects implicit Egyptian criticism

(Continued from page 1)

all that to which we have committed ourselves," said the King, adding that Jordan was seeking a just and lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

Responding to a question on Mr. Musa's remarks, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said: "I do not know of any Jordanian-Egyptian differences. There are meetings to look for new frameworks for strengthening the Jordanian-Egyptian relationship."

Prince Hassan said economic solutions are not an alternative to political solutions but help in building stability.

In his remarks, the King pointed to Egypt's request for holding the next economic summit but indicated that it might be more suitable to hold it in the Gulf as one Gulf country had offered to host it.

Qatar is reported to have made a bid for hosting the next MENA summit.

The King reiterated that Jordan fully supports the Palestinian people so that they regain their legitimate rights on their homeland. He said that the Kingdom supports the Palestinian people in their effort to build their own independent state.

Addressing the question of Jerusalem, the King said: "We wish that Jerusalem will be the symbol of Israeli-

Palestinian peace and the peace among the sons of Abraham."

Palestinian National Authority President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had referred to their dispute over Jerusalem in their speeches to the opening session.

Mr. Arafat strongly criticised the U.S. Congress for endorsing a bill calling for moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem, saying the Congress' decision contradicts international resolutions and could jeopardise the peace process.

"We had hoped that the U.S. Congress would view Jerusalem, our capital, as a united city for peace and love for the three monotheistic religions," Mr. Arafat said. But taking the floor minutes after Mr. Arafat, Mr.

Rabin bluntly stated that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

"I arrived in Amman hours ago from Jerusalem, the capital of Israel," Mr. Rabin said.

Other political issues that seemed to have thrown their shadow over the summit were the deadlocked negotiations on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks.

Syria and Lebanon are staying away from the summit as their peace talks with Israel remain stalled. The two countries are also boycotting the multilateral phase of the peace negotiations on the premise that no discussion over economic issues should be launched with Israel before it withdraws from their occupied territories, thus allowing for peace treaties to be reached.

## Christopher

(Continued from page 16)

Rabin on the sidelines of the MENA economic summit.

But he told journalists on the flight to Amman: "I don't expect any major developments to come out of that meeting. Really it is just to bring me up-to-date on their own thinking."

Even if the Syrian government is "serious about the search for peace" there are

still "differences both in procedure and substance."

He said the talks in Damascus would enable him to "touch base" with Mr. Assad and continue the U.S. role as "an honest broker" in the Middle East peace process.

He would once more try to persuade Syria to agree to hold military talks with Israel which ground to a halt in June when the two sides failed to agree on security arrangements to accompany an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

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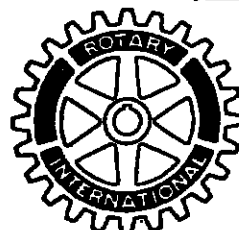
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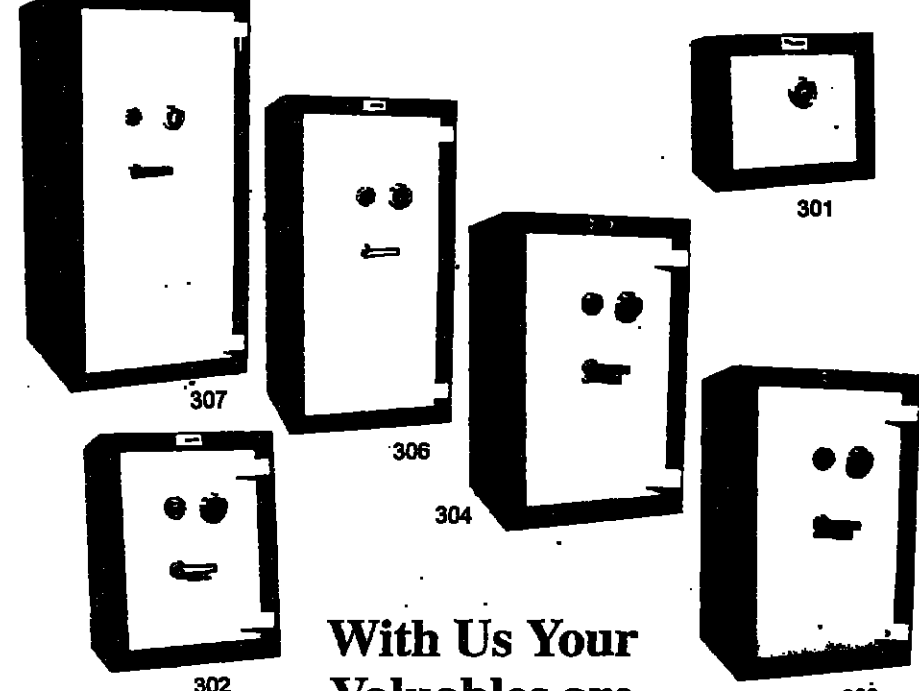


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## German minister says EU will not invest in proposed M.E. bank for development

By Lola Keilani

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The European Union will not oppose the establishment of a Middle East bank for development but the 15 members bloc will not invest in the proposed institution at this stage, Günter Rexrodt, Germany's minister of economy, said Sunday.

The European Union sees

that establishing the bank needs time and is too expensive, but they will keep the door open for the future, the minister told a press conference at the fringes of the MENA summit that opened here yesterday.

"The European Union are interested in establishing a special organisation oriented to finance development, especially infrastructure," Mr. Rexrodt said.

The proposed bank is an

alternative to the Middle East development bank that the U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher announced its creation today.

But Mr. Rexrodt added that the Middle East bank delivers interesting bids, Germany will be involved in the business of the bank. He did not elaborate on details.

Mr. Rexrodt said Germany was interested in "right away" investments in the infrastructure sector, water supplies, cooperation in the

technological field, and vocational training (though educating and employing citizens from the region in German companies that will be established).

"This could be financed through already existing financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the European Investment Bank. Any other way of finance will take a lot of money and time," Mr. Rexrodt said.

Barcelona EU-Arab

Mediterranean region conference, to be held at the end of next month in Spain, will not affect the amount of investments German businessmen are willing to put in the region, the minister pointed out.

For the first time, Germany is leading the biggest number of 50 entrepreneurs to the region.

"We are interested in the Middle East and North Africa because they are our neighbouring areas," he said.

## Peres: Investment can fight fundamentalism

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called on international business leaders Sunday to invest in Arab nations to combat the spread of Islamic fundamentalism, which he called the greatest threat to Middle East peace.

"This is the first time the evil movement of fundamentalism can attain nuclear capacity," Mr. Peres said. "We can't stop it through guns or knives. We have to make life look better and raise their standards of living."

Speaking at the Jerusalem Business Conference, Mr. Peres said only investment leading to jobs could turn impoverished Muslims away

from fundamentalism.

"We have to privatise the peace," he said. Speaking a day earlier at the conference, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was heckled by protesters opposed to the peace process.

Mr. Peres said the economic summit in Amman is an example of business helping reshape the historically unstable region.

"The conference in Amman will help construct a new Middle East, returning it from blood to brains, from conflict to cooperation," he said. "It will help build a borderless economy. This is the greatest promise we can give."

## Saudis report record income from chemical sales

RIYADH (AFP) — An increase in production and prices boosted Saudi Arabia's income from petrochemical sales to a record level in the first nine months of 1995, officials said Tuesday.

Net profits for the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) stood at 4.9 billion Saudi riyals (\$1.3 billion) in the first nine months, higher than the record earnings of 4.2 billion riyals (\$1.12 billion) for the whole of 1994, SABIC said in a performance report.

"The sharp rise in the company's income was a result of both increased production and the international market upturn for several SABIC products," SABIC's vice chairman, Ibrahim Salamah, said.

He said expansion projects had pushed production to 15 million tonnes from 14 million tonnes in the first nine months of 1994.

The profits in the January-September period of 1995 nearly doubled over the same period in 1994, when they stood at around 2.5 billion riyals (\$666 million), the report showed.

The government-controlled SABIC is the biggest chemical producer in the Arab World, producing petrochemicals, fertilizers, petroleum products among other goods.

SABIC has been involved in expansion ventures to raise output capacity to around 20 million tonnes by 2000.

The Saudi government owns 70 per cent of SABIC's capital of 10 billion riyals (\$2.66 billion) while around 20 per cent is held by Saudi businessmen and 10 per cent by other Gulf investors.

Officials said early this year they planned to sell more than half its share to help large-scale economic reforms to cushion the impact of weak crude prices.

Saudi Arabia is the world's top oil power, with an output of nearly eight million barrels per day and reserves of more than a quarter of the global crude reserves of around one trillion barrels.

## Inflation in Sudan rises

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan said its inflation rate in September was 60.7 per cent year-on-year, up from 58 per cent in August.

Sadiq Nasir, the government official in charge of statistics, was quoted in the state-owned daily Al Ingaz Al Watani as attributing the rise to an increase in commodity prices.

Mr. Nasir did not name the commodities, but there have been rises in the prices of bread, wheat, sugar and fuel in recent months. He said a rise in the price of fuel and a weak Sudanese pound would push up the price of other commodities this month.

The government has been maintaining a tight control on spending in an attempt to curb inflation, which has blighted the Sudanese economy for years.

It has recently reduced money supply in an attempt to contain inflation rates, which the government says it wants to reduce to 45 per cent by the end of this year.

## Kuwait to sell \$3b stakes in 28 firms

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait plans to sell government shares worth over \$3 billion in 28 companies in the next few years to widen the Gulf country's investor base and reduce state dominance of the economy.

The Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), the government's investment arm, said it expected to sell shares in four of the 28 firms by the end of 1995, furthering a year-old privatisation programme that has boosted stock exchange prices and volume.

KIA managing director Ali

Al Bader, in a detailed re-

view of previously announced sale plans, told a news conference he had had serious offers from 23 companies to buy KIA shares in the 28 companies and was confident demand would remain buoyant.

"The most important criteria is market demand," he said. "We have sold good companies, medium quality companies and companies which had some losses but which people were ready to buy. It's a mixed bag. We still have some very good companies."

He said there would be no

change in the policy of selling shares only to citizens of Arab Gulf states but noted non-Gulf Arab could participate through mutual funds.

The government has a 10 per cent stake or more in each of the 28 listed firms, which include banks and investment, service and industrial companies. The most valuable single holding is a 49 per cent stake in mobile telecommunications, worth 149 million dinars (\$498 million) at current prices.

KIA has already earned \$1 billion for the government from sales of state shares in eight companies since September 1994 to revive a dormant non-oil sector and stimulate domestic investment. Most sales have been conducted by auction.

Sheikh Bader, noting a rise in bank deposits over the past year, said the success of the sales may have persuaded private Kuwaitis to divert to their home market some of

the millions of dollars of funds they annually place overseas.

Private sector deposits at local banks rose 11 per cent to 6.14 billion dinars (\$20.5 billion) in June 1995.

"The programme has affected the propensity to invest in Kuwait and to leave money ready with the banking system to invest. We think this (the programme) has an effect," he said.

He said the central bank had detected a decline in foreign transfers overseas, adding: "These indications are exactly what we would like to see — more interest in investing in Kuwait's listed companies. This is an important objective of this policy."

The 28 firms are due to be sold within a five year period from the start of 1994. Sheikh Bader said. He did not identify the four companies expected to be sold this year. The exchange price index

rose by a third and volume has multiplied in the past year on privatisation news and moves to settle long-standing corporate and individual bad debt.

Sheikh Bader said in answer to a question that sales of shares made by investors to fund repayments under a bad debt settlement programme in coming years might occasionally affect market demand for KIA holdings at times, but would not hamper sales.

"We are not in a rush and neither is the market, and we only act when there is a bona fide, serious request to buy from us. We are not competing with the sellers in the market," he said.

Sheikh Bader added he was considering amending auction pricing policy after a poor turnout at the Oct. 15 sale of the KIA's 6.5 per cent stake in Kuwait Insurance Company.

## Dollar guillotines 13,000 European aerospace workers

PARIS (AFP) — The dollar guillotined 13,000 workers in the European aerospace industry in the space of four days last week, undermining warnings by German industrialists that they are becoming uncompetitive and a debate in France about the "strong franc" policy.

The European aerospace industry is in a dogfight for survival with an intangible enemy: The exchange rate generated in the cyber-space of electronic prices and dealing screens.

The lasting fall of the dollar is the reason given by DASA of Germany and Aerospatiale of France, the two biggest participants in the Airbus airliner programme, for the launch of huge restructuring plans.

The scheme announced by Daimler-Benz Aerospace on Oct. 23 even states the cause in its name: Dolares, standing for "dollar on low rescue."

DASA intends to shed nearly 9,000 jobs by the end of 1998 to reduce the number of people employed to 40,271.

Aerospatiale, which employs 32,400 people, told its works council on Thursday that it would shed 3,100 jobs in 1996 and 1997 and 800 in its subsidiary Eurocopter in which DASA has a big stake.

The other two partners in the Airbus programme, British Aerospace and CASA of Spain, are affected less by the fall of the dollar against the mark and French franc because sterling and the peseta have been allowed to depreciate in the last three years.

But factors other than the dollar are also at play, and most notably high employment costs and rigidities in labour practices.

German industrialists in particular have warned that high charges related to employment and wage increases are forcing them to develop their production abroad.

They, and trades unions, have also been driven to negotiate arrangements to make labour practices more flexible, by calculating the number of hours worked over a full year rather than a single week or month, in the car industry, for example.

At Aerospatiale an internal study into over-manning in the missile division was carried out in the light of the fall of the dollar and falling expenditures by the state on military equipment.

The space division has not yet been affected. It has just won six export contracts but its future is believed to depend on political decisions to be taken in France and Germany.

Aerospatiale has calculated that if the dollar had remained at about 5.80 francs instead of falling to 5.30 francs, it would have made a profit in the first half of the year of 605 million francs instead of a net loss of 105 million francs.

A member of the board said: "The dollar is killing us. If this continues the European aero industry will disappear."

The market for products made by aerospace companies is depressed and this has obliged U.S. companies to become unusually aggressive on world markets.

The president of Aerospatiale, Louis Gallois, said that the exchange rate of the dollar now represented "a transfer of growth and technology to the United States."

Aerospatiale is controlled

by the state and Mr. Gandois

said Oct. 17 that the company needed to increase its capital of six billion francs to 16 billion francs or about 30 per cent of sales.

The president of DASA, Manfred Bischoff, said that the fall of the dollar distorted the terms of competition, with the U.S. company Boeing which makes the airliners most directly in competition with Airbus.

Airbus recently failed to win two contracts of strategic importance owing to the weakness of the dollar and a price war. One of these was with the Scandinavian SAS airline which chose Boeing airliners and the other with the U.S. company Valujet which chose aircraft built by McDonnell Douglas.

"This cannot go on," lamented Serge Dassault, head of Dassault Aviation, the French company which builds military aircraft.

Mr. Dassault is also the head of the association of French aero industries (GIFAS) and is to succeed Mr. Bischoff next year as head of the European association (AECMA).

In the spring, Mr. Dassault proposed the creation of a monetary compensation fund similar to the one which cushions farmers within the European Union (EU) in the event of internal exchange rate changes.

This idea has found little support. The Commission of the European Union, responding to several such demands, found recently that in general the economies of EU countries with so-called strong currencies had benefited, rather than suffered, from the rise of their currencies because the pressure on margins had restrained wages and prices.

This has led Mr. Dassault to speak openly alongside those in France who are arguing that the government should allow the franc and interest rates to fall.

## Oman to seek financing for LNG project next month

MUSCAT (R) — Oman is to

go to the international market in November to seek financing for its \$6 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, a manager of the Oman LNG Company said.

Tony Hanna, Oman LNG general manager, said he was confident Oman would obtain financing for the project, the biggest undertaken by the Arab Gulf state.

"We will be seeking 70 per cent finance of the \$3.5 billion expenditure of Oman LNG," Mr. Hanna told reporters. "The rest would be financed by equity."

Oman LNG, 51 per cent government-owned, deals with the downstream side of Oman's gas export plans. Royal Dutch/Shell Group Unit Overseas Trading Ltd owns 34 per cent. Total S.A. has six per cent, Partex Oman Corp two per cent. Japan's Mitsubishi Corp and Mitsui & Co. Ltd each have a three per cent stake while Itochu Corp of Japan has one per cent.

"We have produced a financing execution plan being agreed by the board and will issue a preliminary information memorandum (PIM) at the end of November," Mr. Hanna said. "That will go out to banks and export credit agencies. We will be seeking to secure key arrangements at that time."

Mr. Hanna said that ultimately up to 200 banks would be involved in the syndication.

The liquefied gas project is expected to earn Oman, a small oil producer with a daily 500,000 barrels per day output, a 20 per cent increase in oil and gas revenue.

The \$6 billion tag in current prices for the project includes about \$2 billion for tankers, \$2 billion for the liquefaction plant and \$2 billion for the upstream side of

the project. Oman LNG technical manager Kenneth Bradbourn said.

"Expenditure by the time the project starts up in year 2000 will be some \$6.5 billion in money-of-the-day with ongoing expenditure in the upstream during the project life," Mr. Hanna said.

This includes money for eight ships, but the company will be building only four because the project's planned output will be going to South Korea on a free on board basis.

Officials said they were banking on rising demand in Asia and Europe for LNG to make the project lucrative. It is one of two main gas projects in the Gulf that aim to meet growing LNG demand by 2000.

"There is adequate demand in the Far East to initiate both projects," Mr. Hanna said, referring to the multi-billion dollar LNG project in nearby Qatar, where the North Field contains the world's single largest concentration of gas.

A major challenge for the Oman project is to secure firm sales-and-purchase agreements from its LNG exports.

Oman LNG marketing manager Ian Coult said the company was close to completing a gas deal with South Korea before late this year by the time the PIM goes to the banks.

Oman and Korea Gas Corp signed a letter of intent in February for the supply of three million tonnes a year of Omani LNG for 25 years starting in 2000.

"We are working towards an investment decision which will be taken in the third quarter of next year," Mr. Coult said. "By that time we will have final sales and purchase agreements and the contract for the plant."

## British Bank of the M.E. promotes services, network

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British Bank of the Middle East (BBME) is the largest and most widely-represented foreign bank in the Middle East with 26 branches throughout the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan and Lebanon.

plus an offshore banking unit in Bahrain and a representative office in Jericho in the Palestinian autonomous area. A member of the HSBC Group since 1959, BBME's unique relationship with the Middle East dates back more than a century. Founded in London in 1889, it pioneered banking in the region and for decades was the only bank committed to supporting the area. In Jordan it started

business as early as 1949 and was the first bank to open in Kuwait, Dubai, and Oman.

In addition to its Middle East network, in India BBME has branches in Bombay and Trivandrum, operations in London and Geneva, and an offshore banking unit in Nassau, Bahamas. Its head office in Jersey, Channel Islands.

BBME offers a full range of banking and personal finance services — from current and savings accounts term deposits and credit/debit cards — delivered to customers through the latest technology and the largest branch network of any foreign bank in the Middle East.

In its corporate banking services, BBME's focus is on fostering long-term relationships, drawing on its extensive knowledge of commerce in the Middle East. Its full range of services includes working capital term finance, import and export facilities, business finance and deposit services.

BBME is also a leading provider of trade finance throughout the Middle East, and offers a comprehensive range of trade-related services. BBME is well placed to finance trade between the Middle East and the rest of the world.

A leading commercial bank in treasury and capital markets in the Middle East,

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In addition to the Area Management Office in Jebel Hussein, the BBME has five branches in Jordan.

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**QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:** Advanced university degree from a recognised university in Social Studies; education diploma of successful completion of a teacher training course of at least one year duration. Competence in preparing curriculum enrichment/self-learning materials. **EXPERIENCE:** Ten years of teaching experience at various levels of education including experience at an appropriate senior level of which at least five years must have been in in-service or pre-service teacher education (including teaching at university level) and/or supervision of teaching Social Studies in English and Arabic. **DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:** Possession of Ph.D. in Social Studies; competence in conducting research in the field of Social Studies.

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adis report  
record  
come from  
chemical sales

ADH (AFP) — An in-  
creased production and  
exported Saudi Arabia's  
oil to a record level in the  
first nine months of 1995.  
Saudi Arabia's oil exports  
rose 4.5 per cent in the  
first nine months of 1995  
to 1.9 billion barrels, Saudi  
Arabia's oil ministry said  
Tuesday. The ministry said  
the increase was due to a  
combination of factors, in-  
cluding a rise in the price  
of oil, higher production  
and a record level of ex-  
ports. The ministry said the  
increase in exports was a  
result of a combination of  
factors, including a rise in  
the price of oil, higher pro-  
duction and a record level  
of exports.

The sharp rise in the oil  
price was a result of a  
combination of factors, in-  
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plastic products and other  
chemicals.

SABIC has been involved  
in a number of projects to  
expand its production capacity  
to 10 million tonnes by 2000.  
The Saudi government  
owns 70 per cent of SABIC,  
with the rest owned by  
foreign investors.

Officials said early this  
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more than half its share in  
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Saudi Arabia is the world's  
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of 10 million barrels per day  
and reserves of more than  
250 billion barrels.

Mr. Nasir, the govern-  
ment official in charge  
of state-owned daily al-  
Bayan, said the rise in oil  
prices is a major factor in  
the economic situation.

Mr. Nasir did not name  
the commodities, but  
there have been rises in  
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and other foodstuffs. He said  
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## Qatar participates aggressively in summit

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — Top Qatari businessmen, relying on cheap energy and tax breaks, have come to the Middle East economic summit with a wish-list of 22 development projects worth millions of dollars.

Many of their leaders have had private and public contacts with Israeli officials — an advantage for them at the summit, a follow-up to last year's largely political meeting in Casablanca which saw Arabs and Israelis mixing together.

Qatar, like its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) lifted an indirect boycott on firms doing busi-

ness with Israel last September.

But it remains committed to GCC's decision to keep a direct economic ban on Israel, imposed since 1948, until an overall settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Once the boycott is lifted, there is no restriction (on business with Israel), but for the time being, we are still abiding by the boycott rule," Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Mohammad, head of Qatar's 6,000-strong chamber of industry and commerce, told Reuters in an interview late on Saturday.

Qatar's list of 22 projects, from steel pipes, cement and petrochemicals, to iron oxide pigments and safety gloves — has ready feasibility studies

and is regarded as among the most likely to attract foreign interest.

Sheikh Hamad leads a delegation of 48 businessmen and industrialists to the three-day summit, probably among the largest after the United States and Egyptian private sector teams.

They are backed by two cabinet ministers and top aides and glossy promotion pamphlets on investments.

"We have selected projects in which Qatar has an advantage in terms of implementation because of the low cost of energy, and the availability of raw materials, especially those which are derivatives from petrochemicals," said Sheikh Hamad.

"We have selected medium

and small-size schemes for ordinary investors... downstream projects based on large-scale strategic projects that will be implemented by the state-run oil company in joint venture with international oil companies."

Doha is using tax holidays, cheap raw materials and energy and "almost a negligible price of land (for projects)," to lure investors to Qatar, which has the world's third largest proven gas reserves, he added.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al Thani and Minister of Energy and Industry Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah, will promote key projects to increase Doha's oil and gas output levels to diversify its

oil-dominated economy.

Plans include the possibility of setting up a gas distribution centre at Aqaba to supply neighbouring countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

The U.S. oil giant Enron Corp. is interested in marketing Qatari liquefied natural gas (LNG), brought by ship to Aqaba and re-exported through the region, including Israel and Turkey. Doha and Enron are in talks with Jordan on the plan.

Qatar's General Petroleum Corp (GPC) confirmed in March it had granted Enron approval to market five million tonnes annual output of a \$4 billion proposed LNG joint venture, expected to start production from two trains from early 1999.

## Iran's economy hurting but can manage — Bank

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — A senior World Bank official said that a U.S. trade ban, foreign debts and weak oil prices had hurt Iran's economy.

"In the last two years, under the impact of falling oil prices, and because of the bunching of short-term debt maturities, and most recently, because of the sanctions, the economy faced a much more difficult environment," said Caio Koch-Weser, World Bank vice-president for the Middle East and North Africa.

"As a result of that, the last year has been more difficult," Mr. Koch-Weser told Reuters in an interview in

Amman.

Tehran's fiscal deficit widened, inflation went up and its currency depreciated, he added. He gave no figures.

"But the country has successfully renegotiated the repayment schedule on the short-term debts with various creditors," Mr. Koch-Weser said.

"And one sees, in the next five-year plan, a continued commitment to reform targets of about five per cent growth, continued privatisation, and the right measures for stabilisation," he added.

Iran's debt stood at around 35 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), which according to international standards "is not very large," Mr. Koch-Weser

said.

Iran is due to repay about \$3 billion in the current Iranian year on its foreign debt totalling \$20 billion to \$30 billion, incurred mostly when the country went on a major shopping spree from 1990 to 1992, with imports peaking at \$28 billion in 1992.

It slashed imports from its major trading partners this year so that it can build up enough hard currency reserves to service its foreign debt. It also banned free currency exchange in May, setting a fixed rate of 3,000 riyals to the dollar.

The currency has fallen as low as 7,000 against the dollar after the United States announced a trade ban in May against Iran for what Washington said was a programme to develop nuclear arms and its support of terrorism. Iran denies both charges.

Although oil revenues increased between January and May because of higher oil prices — Iran is the world's second largest oil exporter — the clampdown on imports continued.

Mr. Koch-Weser said the World Bank had just completed a study on the Iranian economy and its findings would be released soon, after consultations with the Tehran government are over.

Iran had improved its social indicators over the past 10 years, with primary education enrolment reaching around 100 per cent, life expectancy increasing and illi-

teracy decreasing across the country, Mr. Koch-Weser said.

He said the World Bank was ready to support Iran in technical studies related to economic reforms.

Tehran, which can draw on up to \$850 million in committed World Bank loans, had so far only used some \$250 million to finance six development and irrigation projects, he added.

He said Tehran "may be interested in requesting new lending facilities from the World Bank, but the problem is that there is not sufficient support among our major shareholders for bank lending to Iran."

The United States is the bank's largest contributor. Meanwhile, Iranian energy officials and Gulf traders said Iran is reducing its imports of refined oil products in a move that will save the Islamic republic valuable hard currency expenditure.

Hard currency savings are vital to Iran which faces annual debt repayment of up to \$5 billion, an obligation that has led the government to clamp down on imports in order to build up foreign exchange reserves.

Although Iran is the world's biggest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia, its own refineries are unable to meet domestic demand for all oil products, making it dependent on imports of some heating and transport fuels to bridge the supply gap.

But Iranian energy sources say the country is now becoming self-sufficient in more products and that imports of gas oil — commonly used for heating and in diesel engines — from the Gulf market are currently on hold.

"As a package the volume of product imports compared with one, two, three years ago is comprehensively reduced," an oil marketing manager at the Tehran-based National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said.

Imports of products ran to 70,000 barrels per day (b/d) of oil equivalent in the earlier part of this year.

Cutbacks in energy imports have been achieved by a partial removal of state price subsidies on local products.

Expansion and upgrading at its refineries, particularly at Abadan and Arak, and nationwide gas substitution have also helped to cap local oil demand which had threatened to sharply curb Iran's oil exports in the new decade.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh said last week that the doubling of some fuel prices since March had cut local demand by 100,000 b/d of oil equivalent, saving about \$300 million in six months.

Traditionally, Iran has come to the market for gas oil and kerosene — a cooking fuel — from October to meet growing heating demand as winter temperatures begin to take hold.

"On gas oil, we are importing nothing from the Persian Gulf," said the NIOC marketing official who asked not to be identified, adding that kerosene imports were also below levels this time last year.

Gulf oil traders also noted that Iran has not been in the market over the last few weeks to buy gas oil and that its kerosene import needs were being satisfied by an existing supply contract with the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

Iran is maintaining its exports of fuel oil and naphtha through its unexpected exports of gas oil in June and July have not been repeated so far, traders say.

## Britain to extend credit line to Jordan

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The British government will extend to Jordan medium export credit through its Export Credit Guarantees Department (ECGD). U.K.'s Trade Minister Anthony Nelson announced Sunday.

Mr. Nelson, who is leading a senior-most executives delegation to the Middle East and North Africa economic summit, made the announcement during his speech to conference attendees on trade financing.

The minister indicated that this measure will facilitate the supply of British goods and services for the projects which will further assist Jordan's economic recovery and contribute to development of the region.

Mr. Nelson said that British Prime Minister John Ma-

joir returned from his visit to Jordan in March determined to look for further ways in which Britain could provide practical support to the peace process and Jordan's role in it.

Mr. Nelson added that the U.K. was financially supporting the peace process and that the ECGD cover would help Jordan participate in several regional projects and would also open up new opportunities for Britons exploring business ventures in the Middle East.

"This is an important political decision and a vote of confidence in Jordan and the peace process," he said. "It will mean new money for new business and new jobs."

Other officials accompanying Mr. Nelson include: executives from the Committee for Middle East Trade, which is bound in a cooperation agreement with the Jordan

Businessmen's Association; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; the Export Credit Guarantees Department; the Overseas Development Administration; and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The delegation also includes high-level British businessmen and bankers.

Mr. Nelson also reminded the audience that all of Jordan's aid-related debts to Britain, totalling around JD 50 million had been cancelled.

In his speech, he acknowledged the problems the Kingdom faced in servicing its debts and called on other creditors to follow the U.K.'s lead in writing-off all aid debts. He also indicated that Britain would continue to support international efforts to ease Jordan's debt burden to enhance its economic recovery and improve its credit standing.

## U.S. companies expanded takeovers abroad this year

NEW YORK (AP) — De-

spite the dollar's weaker purchasing power in 1995, U.S. companies have expanded their acquisitions abroad by 25 per cent compared with last year, a study by a major American accounting firm shows.

The KPMG Peat Marwick study also shows foreign purchases of U.S. businesses have risen 17 per cent in 1995. The frenzy of dealmaking, the firm said in the study, "sets the stage for another record year in global corporate marriages."

U.S. companies spent \$43 billion on overseas acquisitions in the January-September period, vs. \$34 billion during the first nine

months of 1994.

The five most popular targets for U.S. companies, accounting for more than two-thirds of all purchases abroad, were in Britain at \$9.2 billion, France at \$5.3 billion, Russia at \$4.9 billion and Australia at \$4.8 billion.

The Americans increased spending even though the value of the dollar has been weaker this year compared with 1994. That means it was more expensive for U.S. purchasers to buy foreign assets.

Steve Blum, KPMG Peat Marwick's national director of corporate finance, attributed the spending surge to the strong U.S. stock market that helped U.S. companies raise money, easy availability

of credit in this country and low interest rates that made it attractive to borrow.

The firm said foreign purchasers spent \$46 billion on U.S. target companies in the first nine months of 1995, vs. \$40 billion in the first nine months of 1994. The top five big spenders were from Canada at \$10.1 billion, Britain at \$10 billion, Germany at \$8 billion, Belgium at \$4 billion and Japan at \$3 billion.

Globally, deal spending rose six per cent to \$161 billion in the first nine months of the year, from \$152 billion in the comparable 1994 period. The value of global marriages for all of 1994 totalled a record \$239 billion.

## Saudis to pay for \$6 billion plane purchases over 9 years

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) —

Saudi Arabia will pay the \$6 billion for 61 U.S. airliners. It is buying in instalments spread out over more than nine years, the kingdom's defence minister said in comments published Sunday.

The Al Hayat daily quoted Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz as saying Riyadh will make a downpayment of only \$10 million this year, followed by \$67 million next year.

The remainder will be paid in unspecified instalments over the following eight years.

Prince Sultan, Saudi Arabia's minister of defence and aviation, gave no other details about the payments or financing.

He said the national carrier, Saudia, will take delivery of the first airliners in 1997, and that all 61 aircraft would be in service by 1998.

The Arabic-language newspaper quoted him as

saying that the new planes would put Saudia in a "very competitive" position, allowing it to make the larger instalments once the aircraft are operational.

The purchase is expected to modernise state-owned Saudia's ageing fleet of some 50 to 60 airliners and improve its performance once a proposed privatisation programme is completed. This year, it is expected to break even or make a small profit.

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**Ground-breaking ceremony for ITT-Sheraton hotel**

AMMAN (J.T.) — A groundbreak ceremony at the site of the future ITT/Sheraton hotel will take place Monday, Oct. 30 at 4:45 p.m. ITT/Sheraton signed a management contract with the Jordanian holding company of Al Dawliyah for Industrial Trade and Touristic Development on March 19, 1995, with provisions for technical assistance by ITT/Sheraton. The principals of Al Dawliyah, Mr. Nabil Mousher, chairman, Mr. Yousef Al Taher, general manager; and Dr. Mohammad Jaber, assistant general manager, will all be present at the ground-breaking. Once completed, the ITT/Sheraton will be a 296 room, four star hotel, with a total project value of \$40 million.

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## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1995

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Pick the persons you want to have allies at this time and state your aims nicely.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Put more artistry and efficiency in your career activities and you can gain far greater benefits.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Get out with congenial friends to places of amusement and have a delightful time together.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day to entertain at home since this could bring fine results later this evening.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) It is wise to cooperate more with persons you deal with everyday and come to a fine understanding with them for you to be successful.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) This is a fine day today for getting your environment in far better order.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You are charming and dynamic today and can get almost any favour you wish.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to reach a better understanding with the one you love.

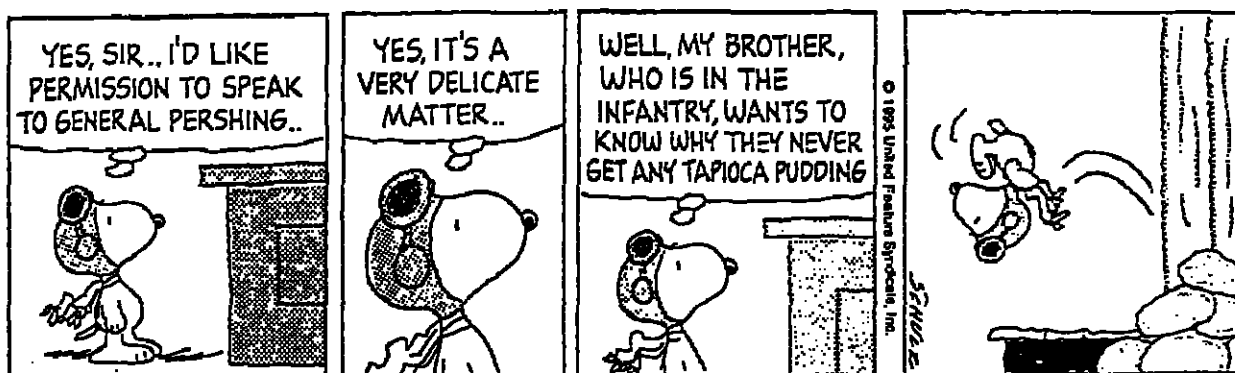
**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Be more gregarious and deepen friendships you now enjoy at this time.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) If you make an effort to handle civic duties well today, your reputation can be improved.

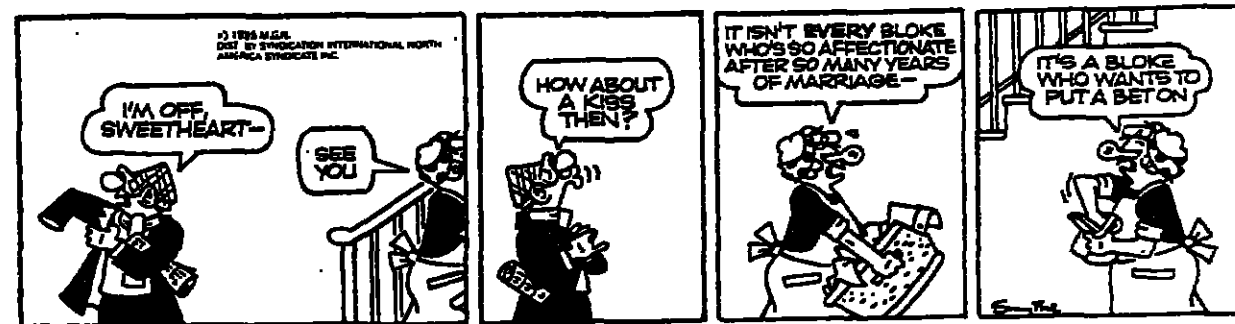
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Carry through serenely with some interest you have today.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Put a neat touch and fine finish to whatever you are doing today.

## Peanuts



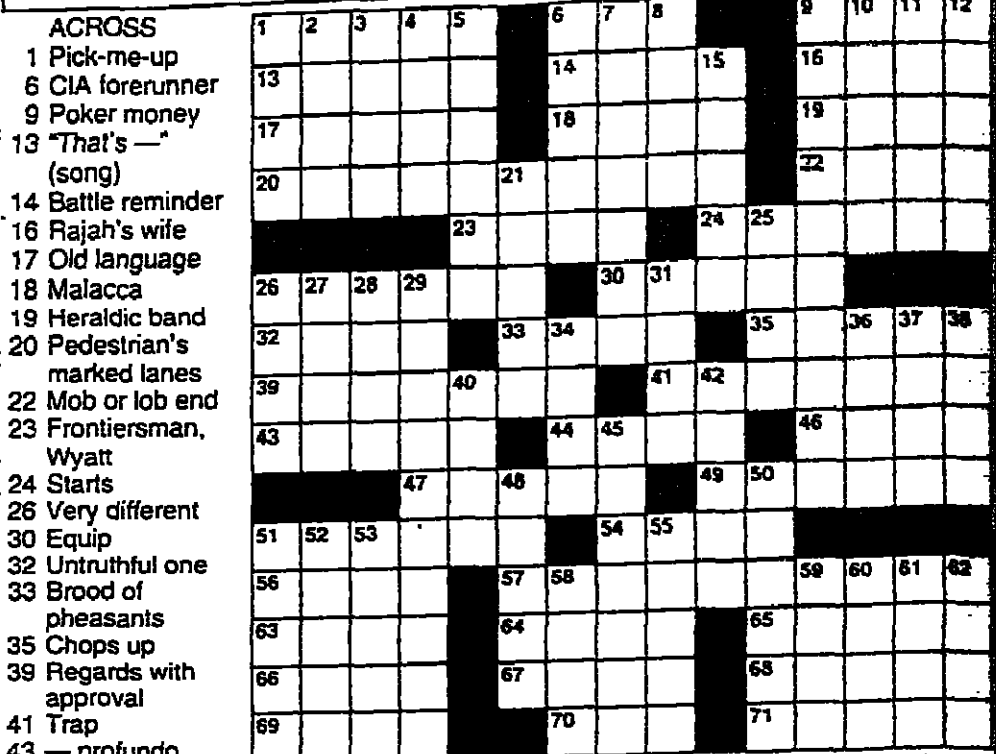
## Andy Cap



## Mutt'n' Jeff

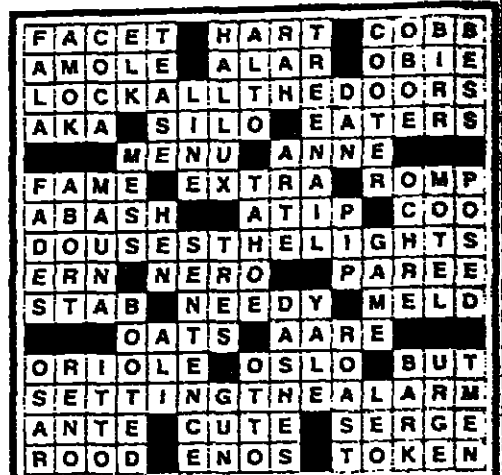


## THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker



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Yesterday's puzzle solved:



- ACROSS**
- Pick-me-up
  - CIA forerunner
  - Poker money
  - "That's —" (song)
  - Battle reminder
  - Rajah's wife
  - Old language
  - Malacca
  - Heraldic band
  - Pedestrian's marked lanes
  - Mob or lob end
  - Frontiersman, Wyatt
  - Starts
  - Very different
  - Equip
  - Untruthful one
  - Brood of pheasants
  - Chops up
  - Regards with approval
  - Trap
  - profundo
  - Fatigue
  - Slow leak
  - Sen. Thurmond
  - Part of AWOL
  - Southwest spread
  - Near: pref.
  - Take — leave it
  - Decision-making site
  - Simpleton
  - Tun
  - Relative by marriage
  - Burden
  - Molding
  - NY city
  - Heraldic band
  - Actor Byrnes
  - Computer word
- DOWN**
- Powder, briefly
  - Shari
  - "Say — drugs"
  - Rainbow
  - Thurible
  - Actor's award
  - Overcharged
  - Submerged
  - Certain air currents
  - Author Bret
  - Ria
  - Landing places
  - Put in new grass
  - Gretzky of hockey
  - Bends the head
  - Excess fat
  - Verdi work
  - Ewes' guys
  - Line pattern
  - do-well
  - Ratio words
  - Anxiety
  - Ireland
  - Cian
  - "Goodbye, Columbus" author
  - Comes close
  - Set a burden upon
  - 1990 Emmy winner, Alex
  - Whitish element
  - Get — (throw away)
  - Make amends
  - Intricate plot
  - Inquired
  - Latest fad
  - Aware of
  - Put — on it! (keep quiet)
  - Freshwater fish
  - Used the nomenclature



## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YAMNAN HIRSHON  
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## SPOT THE CLUE

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ A K Q 10  
♥ K 10 9  
♦ Q 9 8  
♣ J 7 4

**EAST**  
♠ 9 7 3  
♥ A  
♦ A 4 3  
♣ K Q 10 9 3

**WEST**  
♠ J 8 5 4 2  
♥ 7 6 5 4  
♦ K 7  
♣ 8 6 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q J 8 7 4 2  
♥ Q J 10 9 3  
♦ A 2  
♣ A 2

The bidding:  
NORTH SOUTH WEST NORTH  
1♠ 1♥ 1♦ 1♣

Opening lead: Eight of ♠. Every card and every play tells a story. Understand the plot and become a winning player. This hand is from a major team championship some years ago. North-South reached a reasonable four-heart contract in quick time and, after a club lead, it takes well-reasoned defense to defeat the game. Cover up the South and West hands and see if you can annulate.

the performance of Eddie Kantar, U.S. internationalist and one of the game's most prolific and best writers.

When declarer played low from dummy on the club lead, Kantar's nine was captured by South's ace. Declarer cashed the ace and king of spades, discarding a club from hand, then led the nine of hearts. You win points with the ace. What do you lead next, and why?

Kantar reasoned that declarer had to be left with only red cards — if South held another club, it would have been disposed of on the remaining high spade. Therefore, to defeat the contract the defenders would have to find three more tricks in the red suits.

Obviously, no trick was available in trumps — declarer could easily have come to hand with a club ruff and tried a trump finesse if the queen were missing. That meant that the diamond suit would have to provide three tricks, and the only chance for the defense was to find partner with the king singleton. So, Kantar shifted to a low diamond, and king, ace and a diamond ruff defeated the contract one trick.

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PENIT

YALIG

KIRBEC

ALMMA

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: MINER ODDLY SKEWER FLORID

Answer: What the dentist had after a long day with patients — HIS "FILL" OF WORK

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Harri Arnold and Mike Argentin

It's a nice way to make friends.

Hi, my name is Ted.

YOU MIGHT CALL THE SINGLES DINNER DANCE THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

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45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68
69	70	71	72

yesterday's puzzle solved:

HART COBB  
 ALAR COBB  
 THE DOORS  
 CO EATERS  
 U ANNE  
 XTRA ROMP  
 ATIP COO  
 THE LIGHTS  
 RO PIAREE  
 EEDY MELD  
 S ARE  
 O SLO BUT  
 G THE ALARM  
 UTE SERGE  
 N O S T O K E N

55 Latest fad  
 59 Aware of  
 60 Put on it  
 (keep quiet)  
 61 Freshwater fish  
 62 Used the  
 natorium

Amman Hotel Shops

Amman, Amman.

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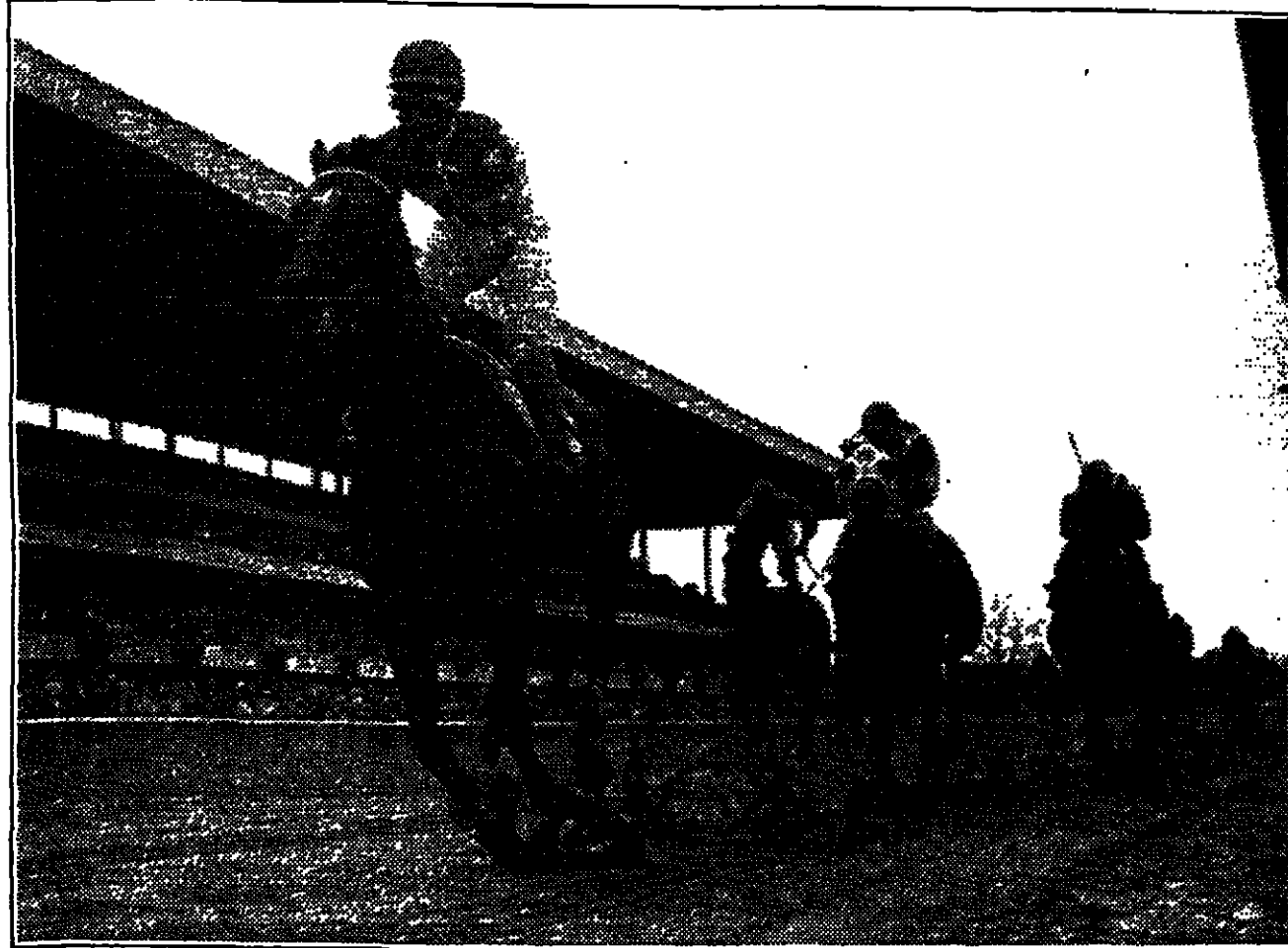
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Amman, Amman.



Jockey Jerry Bailey rides U.S.-bred Cigar (left) across the finish line in the Classic race (Reuters photo)

## Cigar caps season dream with Breeders' Cup win

ELMONT, New York (R) — Cigar won his 12th successive race of the year in smashing fashion, breaking the stakes record as he crushed an international field in the Breeders' Cup Classic on Saturday.

The victory put Cigar in fourth place on the all-time money winning list and capped a seven-race, \$10 million series on the world's richest racing day — a day that featured a series of stirring stretch duels under clearing skies at Belmont Park.

European challenger Halling finished last in the Classic but horses with strong Irish connections won the two grass races. Americans dominated the rest of the racing on surfaces left wet from overnight rain.

By day's end the skies cleared and sunshine warmed the crowd of 31,246. "He's the greatest horse I've ever ridden," Cigar's jockey Jerry Bailey said. "He overcame everything they threw at him — everything."

British-bred, Irish-owned Ridgewood Pearl handled the soggy turf course to take the \$1 million Mile, and Northern Spur, bred in Ireland and owned by an American, held on to win the \$2 million Turf.

Favoured in the race, Northern Spur made his move just as a pack of horses slogged around the corner for the final run. He and Freedom Cry, the second choice, broke clear and ran neck and neck but Northern Spur had the rail and was not to be denied.

Northern Spur's jockey, Chris McCarron, said the "going was very deep" on the soft turf course but said Northern Spur "pricked up his ears and was waiting for the other horse and fought them off."

A 3-year-old trained by John Oxx, Ridgewood Pearl won her fourth grade one in just eight starts with a powerful stretch run that left her a solid two lengths ahead of

Fastness, an Irish bred that has been running in California.

Ridgewood Pearl's jockey, John Murtagh, said the win proved the horse the best of the Europeans. Murtagh said he just followed Fastness through the race and held his horse back until the final run.

The opening races featured a record time by My Flag in the \$1 million Juvenile Fillies and a record winning margin by Inside Information in the \$1 million Distaff. Both winners were saddled by New York-based trainer Shug McGaughey.

My Flag, who had lost three times to arch-rival Golden Attraction, came from behind to pull out the victory in the fastest time ever recorded in the race, a blistering 1:42 2/5 for the 1 1/16 miles.

Desert Stormer, a California mare who had not run in more than two months, fought off longshot Mr.

Greeley in the stretch to win the \$1 million Sprint.

Inside Information, a 4-5 favourite, ran away unchallenged in the \$1 million Distaff, winning by 13 1/2 lengths over stablemate Heavenly Prize. The previous record for winning margin was seven lengths by Princess Rooney, in the 1984 Distaff.

Jockey Mike Smith said Inside Information, a 4-year-old who has been racing in New York, New Jersey and Kentucky, gave an "awesome performance."

Unbridled's Song, also with Smith aboard, took the \$1 million Juvenile, outduelling Hennessy in another stretch battle. Unbridled's Song, a 2-year-old in only his third race, went off as the 3-1 second favourite while Hennessy was 7-1.

The victory in the Classic gave Cigar total winnings of \$5,089,815, fourth highest of all time, behind Alysheba, John Henry and Best Pal.

## 10-man Manchester United move within a point of Newcastle

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United overcame the sending-off of Roy Keane to move within a point of Premiership leaders Newcastle by beating Middlesbrough 2-0 at Old Trafford on Saturday.

United's local rival City received a 6-0 drubbing as Liverpool, moving to third, piled on the misery at Anfield.

Now the arch-rivals will be united in hoping Tottenham can do them a favour by beating in-form Newcastle at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

Keane was sent-off in the 30th minute after punching Boro's Norwegian international striker Jan Fjortoft, who had pulled 'his shirt'.

United manager Alex Ferguson had no complaints ab-

out the ruling: "You know if you lift your hand on the pitch you'll pay the price for that and get sent off. Nobody could dispute it. But that's the matter finished."

After the dismissal, Gary Pallister headed United ahead against his former club and the 10 men broke out three minutes from time when Eric Cantona provided the opportunity from which Andy Cole claimed his first goal since August.

Ferguson added: "I think we improved as the match went on and in the second half they were chasing the game which meant we could look to break. It was a matter of keeping our discipline."

Better news for Boro came from assistant manager Viv Anderson who confirmed the settlement of Juninho's work permit: "It came through today. We are told it is in transit to the club and is on its way to us," he repeated.

"Juninho is flying out from Brazil tonight and should arrive some time later this evening or early tomorrow."

There was never any doubt where the points were going at Liverpool, where City — beaten 4-0 in the League Cup third round on Wednesday — were 2-0 down within five minutes. Ian Rush scored his first League goal of the season and Jamie Redknapp grabbed the second.

Rush, whose goal drought ended in midweek, further

justified his inclusion in place of 8.5 million pound (\$12.7 million) Stan Collymore by slotting home a second in the second half, with Robbie Fowler also scoring twice to take his season's tally to 12.

Liverpool boss Roy Evans was moonstruck: "We have got to be delighted, to beat anyone 6-0 is different and coming on the back of Wednesday's 4-0 win you always worry about a bit of complacency."

"As daft as it may seem, I enjoyed the game. I enjoyed Liverpool," he said. "They're everything I believe in about how the game should be played."

"They totally outclassed us and got the start they wanted. From then on I had to sit back and admire them."

Ball was clearly angered by a suggestion from a reporter that such comments would not please the City fans.

He said: "You've got to

look at the overall picture and be brutally honest. There is no point in trying to kid yourself."

"We have got to go away and learn from it and hopefully some of the young players will learn from it as well because that is what I preach to them."

However, playing "Spot the Ball" at Manchester City may soon be an impossible task, as they plunge to new depths.

Fifth-placed Nottingham Forest stretched their record Premiership unbeaten run to 24 matches — but had to make do with a point at Queens Park Rangers.

Highly-rated Trevor Sinclair sealed a 1-1 draw 10 minutes from the end after Jason Lee had put Forest

ahead within 60 seconds of the second-half restart.

Aston Villa and Leeds retained seventh and eighth places respectively after victories at home to Everton and Coventry.

Dwight Yorke headed his seventh of the campaign for Villa's 1-0 success, while skipper Gary McAllister chalked up a hat-trick as Leeds came from behind to win 3-1.

McAllister, whose hat-trick was a first in his five years at Leeds, was praised by manager Howard Wilkinson, who said: "He played a captain's part."

"You could tell he was tired near the end of the game because his socks were down, but he was still driving the team on."

"We gave away a sloppy goal and 2-1 was never going to be enough. We are not winning confidently at the moment."

Ever-dangerous Alan Shearer took his season's tally to 15 as defending champions Blackburn scored a comfortable 3-0 home win over Chelsea.



Eric Cantona (right) clashes with Middlesbrough's Nicky Barry at Old Trafford (Reuters photo)

### ENGLISH SOCCER ROUNDUP

"Fortunately we got early goals and it was always going to be uphill for them after that."

He said the high score would help the club's goal difference and for once refused to use victory as an opportunity to criticism his side.

He said: "Sometimes you've got to think positive and say you've done well. To win 6-0 is a great effort. Their are always faults, you can't have it perfect."

He added the absence of Stan Collymore from the squad was as a result of a recurrence of a flu virus.

With the ball on the other foot, Manchester City boss Alan Ball described Liverpool's performance as "irresistible."

Rush, whose goal drought ended in midweek, further

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# Jordan signs loan accords

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan and Jordan on Sunday signed two agreements under which Tokyo will extend \$151 million to help boost Jordan's foreign exchange reserves and expand the telecommunications sector.

Jordan also signed another loan agreement with the World Bank under which the bank would provide \$80 million to the Kingdom, again to help it raise its foreign exchange reserves to a level closer to a target set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The loan agreements were signed on the fringes of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference, which opened here Sunday.

Finance Minister Basel Jarrah and Hiroshi Yasuda, a senior official from the Export-Import Bank of Japan signed the first \$135 million loan under a special arrangement with the IMF. The amount will be disbursed to the IMF and adjusted against IMF advances already granted to Jordan.

Planning Minister Rima Khalaf and an official of the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund signed another loan accord for \$16 million, which will be used by the Telecommunications Corporation of Jordan.

Dr. Khalaf and World Bank MENA Region Vice-President Caio Koch-Weser signed the \$80 million loan agreement.

Japan meanwhile also announced that it was granting

another \$80 million loan to Jordan and that the formal signing of the related accord would take place after 30 working days in line with a stipulation by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

That also will be used by Jordan to beef up its foreign currency reserves.

The loans raise to \$441 million the total Japanese assistance to Jordan during the Japanese fiscal year 1995, which ends in March 1996.

Included in the total, in addition to the \$151 million loans signed on Sunday and the \$80 million to be signed after 30 days, are grant and technical assistance worth \$30 million, another loan worth \$80 million for human resources development and \$100 million in credit to help an expansion of the Aqaba Thermal Power Plant.

The latest Japanese assistance to Jordan comes in realisation of a pledge made by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama during a visit he paid to the Kingdom in September.

The government of Italy will extend to Jordan another loan of \$12 million, again under a co-financing agreement with the World Bank. The date of the signing of the Italian accord was not immediately known.

As a result of the agreements with Japan, the World Bank and Italy, Jordan will get a net amount of \$172 million to boost its foreign exchange reserves to over \$600 million.



His Majesty King Hussein, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Canadian Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at Sunday's opening of the Middle East and North Africa economic conference (Reuters photo)

## Jordan to assist Bosnians rebuild shrines, education

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday Jordan would contribute to the reconstruction of Islamic shrines in Bosnia.

The Crown Prince's announcement was made during a meeting with Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, who is currently in Amman to take part in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit.

Mr. Silajdzic praised the Jordanian position towards Bosnia, recalling Jordan's continuous support for the Bosnian people.

In another development, Jordan and Bosnia signed a cultural and scientific cooperation agreement, under which students from Jordan and Bosnia will be granted scholarships in the two countries' universities.

Youth delegations from both countries will visit each other.

The agreement also calls for the exchange of expertise in the fields of social development and information.

## Qatar sets up \$250m fund for Palestinians

AMMAN (API) — Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani, announced Sunday that his country was setting up a \$250 million fund to assist Palestinian development.

Sheikh Hamad told a news conference attended by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that \$25 million already had been secured for the fund, which will be used to underwrite projects in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The fund will be known as the Salam (peace) company, he said, and "will encourage

both the Palestinians and the others to gain from peace."

The announcement was made on the edge of the three-day Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which has drawn some 2,000 government officials and businessmen from 64 countries to discuss doing business in the region as peace widens.

Mr. Christopher described the fund as "a model of the kind of support that can be given to the Palestinians."

Mr. Arafat told Sheikh Hamad: "We welcome this very much as a step which will encourage others in the same line."

He added, "Surely this company, which Qatar is sponsoring and supporting, is very much appreciated by the Palestinian people."

The announcement comes amid reports that Qatar is negotiating to sell natural gas to Israel, although an agreement is not expected to be signed before the end of the year.

Longer-term plans include building a pipeline from Qatar through Saudi Arabia and Jordan and into Israel and, likely, the autonomous Palestinian territories.

## Christopher to pursue Damascus mission

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Mounting tension in the region following the killing of Islamic Jihad leader Fajri Shuaqbi will have no impact on a visit planned by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Syria today to explore means to break the deadlock in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, senior U.S. administration officials said Sunday.

The officials, briefing reporters on the fringes of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference which opened here

Sunday, said Mr. Christopher was due in the Syrian capital as scheduled regardless of the killing.

The officials were answering a question whether Mr. Christopher had any change of mind over his plans, particularly that he would be landing in Damascus on the same day the body of Shuaqbi, who was gunned down in Malta on Thursday (see page 9), was being flown there.

As far as the Clinton administration is concerned, Syria is committed to the peace process and negotiations with Israel and as such there is no reason the killing should

affect Mr. Christopher's plans, said the officials.

The officials, however, declined direct comment on the assassination, blamed on the Israeli Mossad secret service by Islamic Jihad.

Mr. Christopher has admitted he faced an uphill task in trying to revive the Syrian-Israeli deadlocked peace negotiations.

The Secretary of State is scheduled to meet with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad for several hours. In Amman he met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak



## Briton gets 1st permanent electric heart

LONDON (R) — A British man was given an electric heart last week in an operation that could bring hope to hundreds of heart disease sufferers, the Sunday Times newspaper reported. Abel Goodman, a 64-year-old retired film producer who suffered from heart failure, received the implant at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford in the first operation of its kind. The electric heart, developed by scientists at the Texas Heart Institute, is battery-operated and unlike heart assist devices designed to keep patients alive until they receive a transplant, it should work indefinitely. The Texas Heart Institute was unable to carry out the operation in the United States because the device has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Mr. Goodman, who had been given just six months to live and had been ruled too old to receive a heart transplant paid for by Britain's National Health Service, decided that he had nothing to lose from the operation. "I weighed up the options. My life was seriously at risk and this seemed the only way forward," he told the newspaper, whose front page showed him standing after the operation with the aid of two nurses. For the rest of his life, Mr. Goodman will have to wear a harness carrying the two 1.5 pound (0.6804 kilogram) batteries that operate the heart. These must be changed every eight hours. The electric heart, stitched into the left ventricle of Mr. Goodman's own heart, gives off a just audible whirr as it pumps oxygenated blood around the body, the Sunday Times said.

Longer-term plans include building a pipeline from Qatar through Saudi Arabia and Jordan and into Israel and, likely, the autonomous Palestinian territories.

He added, "Surely this company, which Qatar is sponsoring and supporting, is very much appreciated by the Palestinian people."

The announcement comes amid reports that Qatar is negotiating to sell natural gas to Israel, although an agreement is not expected to be signed before the end of the year.

Longer-term plans include building a pipeline from Qatar through Saudi Arabia and Jordan and into Israel and, likely, the autonomous Palestinian territories.

## Women likely to reject donated male livers

LONDON (R) — A woman given a liver transplant from a man is more likely to reject it than if she had received one from a woman, British doctors said Friday. More than nine per cent of women patients receiving a liver from a male donor developed chronic rejection, compared with 1.7 per cent of those given another woman's liver, the doctors reported in the Lancet medical journal. The reason may be that the female recipient has an "immune attack" against the male-ness of the transplanted organ, they said. Chronic rejection usually means the new liver has to be removed. The team from Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital found that patients under the age of 30 were also more likely to develop chronic rejection, because they have more robust immune systems which reject the alien organ.

## Irish president would welcome visit by queen

LONDON (API) — Irish President Mary Robinson says she would welcome a state visit by Queen Elizabeth II. There has not been a state visit to Ireland by a British monarch since World War II. Mrs. Robinson said at the end of a four-day visit to Britain that the recent visit to Ireland by Prince Charles was an indication of the "extraordinary deepening of bilateral relations" over the past few years. The Irish president Monday attended her first public event with the queen. They first met two years ago when Mrs. Robinson made a private visit to Buckingham Palace.

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